



EDWARDS

Air Force Base
California

*A great
place to live
and work*

BASE GUIDE 2006

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**EDWARDS
AIR FORCE BASE**

A Guide for 2006

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A great place to live and work 2006 Base Guide

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California



An F-22 Raptor makes a low pass over Edwards Air Force Base. U.S. Air Force photo

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Welcome to **EDWARDS** Air Force Base and the AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER

Welcome to Edwards Air Force Base and the Air Force Flight Test Center! Whether this is your first Air Force assignment or your 10th, I hope you will set aside time to really explore the base and the area. We have been able to re-open our base tour, a very popular and informative activity which was halted after September 11th, and I encourage you, your family and friends to take the first opportunity to sign up for one. The entire Antelope Valley is our home community - from Rosamond to California City to Boron, Lancaster, Palmdale and Acton - giving us a wide range of off-base activities from the Poppy Festival to Willow Springs' auto racing to the Lancaster Jethawks minor league baseball team. Make time to get to know the area and its friendly, welcoming people.



An F-22 Raptor passes
over the state of California.
Photo: U.S. Air Force



Photo by Chad Bellay

Edwards is the perfect place to safely test America's aerospace systems, thanks to our wide-open spaces, both land and sky, and lakebed runways. We live our motto "Ad Inexplorata," or "Toward the Unexplored" every day by doing things "first," just as we've been doing for more than 60 years. Hundreds of significant aviation "firsts" have been accomplished here – more than any other place on earth. Edwards was where the sound barrier was first broken by Capt. Chuck Yeager in the Bell X-1 on Oct. 14, 1947, and where other X-planes pushed that record to two, three, four, five and six times the speed of sound and beyond. It was here that the X-15 probed the threshold of space and where the Space Shuttle first took wing and then landed on its initial return from earth's orbit.

As aviation friendly as our unique geography is, there is no more valuable asset than the 18,000 people who live and work here. The nation's brightest engineers, scientists, logisticians, technicians and test pilots make up a treasured national resource for developing and advancing aviation capabilities across all disciplines. We serve alongside our partners at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate, the U.S. Marine Corps Marine Aircraft Group 46, Detachment Bravo, NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center and the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Detachment 5. I am extremely proud of the energy, commitment and professionalism shown by everyone at the Air Force Flight Test Center.

Again, a hearty welcome and best wishes from all of us for a most enjoyable stay. I am delighted you are here!

CURTIS M. BEDKE
Major General, USAF
AFFTC Commander



Air Traffic Control Tower.
Photo: Thomas Powell

HISTORY

The Natural Setting

A parched and forbidding wilderness to those who first see it, the northwestern Mojave Desert is a land of coyotes and jack rabbits, of ragged greasewood and, of course, Joshua trees. It is a harsh land of sometimes stunning contrasts — a land of griddle-hot days and bone-chilling nights, of violent dust storms, bewildering mirages and mesmerizing sunsets.

Until the Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in 1876, the desert was populated mostly by occasional prospectors drifting endlessly in pursuit of elusive mineral wealth. In 1882, the Santa Fe Railroad ran a line westward out of Barstow toward Mojave and built a water stop at the edge of an immense dry lakebed, roughly 20 miles southeast of Mojave. The lonely water stop was known simply as “Rod,” and the lakebed was then called Rodriguez Dry Lake.

By the early 1900s, “Rodriguez” had been anglicized into “Rodgers,” which was then shortened to “Rogers.” First formed in the Pleistocene Epoch and featuring an extremely flat, smooth and concrete-like surface, Rogers Dry Lakebed is a playa—or pluvial lake—that spreads out over 44 square miles, making it the largest such geological formation in the world.

Its parched clay and silt surface undergoes a timeless cycle of renewal each year, as water from winter rains is swept back and forth by desert winds, smoothing it out to an almost glass-like flatness.

THE HOMESTEADERS 1900s

In 1910, the Corum family settled at the edge of this lakebed. In addition to raising alfalfa and turkeys, they located other homesteaders in the area for a fee of \$1 per acre. As those settlers moved in, the Corum brothers earned contracts for drilling water wells and clearing land. They also opened a general store and post office.

Their request to have the post office stop named “Corum” was disallowed because there was already a Coram, Calif. So they simply reversed the spelling of their name and named it “Muroc.” Small, isolated homesteads dotted the land over the next 20 years.



The Corum's tiny one-room general store eventually grew into the Muroc Mercantile Company and Post Office, a landmark at Muroc until 1953.

THE AIRMEN ARRIVE 1930s

The early homesteaders thought of Rogers Dry Lakebed as a wasteland. However, a visionary Airman commanding March Field, Lt. Col. H. H. “Hap” Arnold, saw it as a one-of-a-kind “natural aerodrome”—one that could be acquired at virtually no cost to the taxpayer.

Thus, in September 1933, the Muroc Bombing and Gunnery Range was established by Arnold. This remote training site, now a small enclave within present-day Edwards, served the Army Air Corps' bombers and fighters for several years.

With the arrival of World War II, a permanent base sprang up for the training of combat flight crews. In July 1942, it was activated as a separate post and designated Muroc Army Air Base.

Throughout the war years, B-24s thundered through the Muroc skies and P-38s strafed the targets on the range as bomber crews and fighter pilots prepared to do battle overseas.



Lt. Col. “Hap” Arnold's first camp in 1941.



Capt. Glen W. Edwards

STRANGE SHAPES IN THE SKY 1940s

In the meantime, wartime development of military aviation overwhelmed Wright Field in Ohio with an immense volume of flight test work. It was necessary to find a remote location with good flying weather where a new top-secret airplane could safely undergo tests.

In the spring of 1942, a site was chosen alongside the north shore of Rogers Dry Lakebed, about six miles away from the training base at Muroc. A wooden hangar and rudimentary facilities sprang up and on Oct. 1, 1942, Bell test pilot Bob Stanley lifted the wheels of the Bell XP-59A Airacomet off the enormous, flat surface of the dry lakebed. The turbojet revolution had arrived. America's first jet plane was shortly joined by a second, the famed Lockheed XP-80 Shooting Star.

As revolutionary as these two experimental fighter planes were, the natural runways of the lakebed served them well. The first-generation turbojet engines had a nasty habit of flaming out, and the Airacomet required an extremely long takeoff roll.

During the postwar years, all of America's first generation of jets — both Air Force and Navy—underwent testing at Muroc, and the great lakebed served as a welcome haven to countless pilots in distress.

The success of these programs attracted a new type of research activity to the base in late 1946. The rocket-powered Bell X-1 was the first in a long series of experimental airplanes designed to prove or disprove aeronautical con-



Capt. Charles "Chuck" Yeager and the supersonic mission's project engineer, Capt. Jack Ridley, stand before the Bell X-1 hanging beneath the mothership B-29.



The Bell XP-59A Airacomet rolls out for its maiden flight, ushering in the turbojet revolution.

cepts—to probe the most challenging unknowns of flight and solve its mysteries.

On Oct. 14, 1947, Capt. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager flew the small bullet-shaped airplane to become the first human to exceed the speed of sound. With the X-1, flight testing at Muroc began to assume two distinct identities. Highly experimental research programs—such as the X-3, X-4, X-5 and XF-92A—were typically flown in conjunction with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, or NACA, and were conducted in a methodical fashion to answer largely theoretical questions. Then, as now, the great bulk of flight testing at Muroc focused on evaluations of the capabilities of aircraft and systems proposed for the operational inventory.

In December 1949, Muroc was renamed Edwards Air Force Base in honor of Capt. Glen W. Edwards, who was killed a year earlier in the crash of the YB-49 Flying Wing.

By that time, the base had already become the reigning center of American flight research and on June 25, 1951, this fact was finally officially recognized when its test community was designated the U.S. Air Force Flight Test Center, or AFFTC. That same year, the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School moved to Edwards from Wright Field, Ohio.

Its curriculum focused on the traditional field of performance testing and the relatively new field of stability and control, which had suddenly assumed critical importance with the dramatic increases in speed offered by the new turbojets.

1950s



Col. Chuck Yeager

The Golden Age of Flight Test

The decade of the 1950s was a remarkable period in the history of aviation, and there was no better evidence of this than what transpired at Edwards. If the concept seemed feasible—or even just desirable—it was evaluated in the skies above the sprawling 301,000-acre base.

The experimental rocket planes, for example, continued to expand the boundaries of the high-speed and stratospheric frontiers.

As the decade opened, the first-generation X-1 reached Mach 1.45 (957 mph) and a 71,902-foot altitude, representing the edge of the envelope. The D-558-II Douglas Skyrocket soon surpassed these marks. In 1951, Douglas test pilot Bill Bridgeman flew the skyrocket to a top speed of Mach 1.88 (1,180 mph) and a peak altitude of 74,494 feet. Then, in 1953, Marine test pilot Lt. Col. Marion Carl flew the same plane to an altitude of 83,235 feet.

On Nov. 20, 1951, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics's Scott Crossfield became the first man to reach Mach 2 as he piloted the Skyrocket to a speed of Mach 2.005 (1,291 mph). Less than a month later, Maj. Chuck Yeager topped this record as he piloted the second-generation Bell X-1A to a top speed of Mach 2.44 (1,650 mph) and, just nine months later, Maj. Arthur "Kit" Murray flew the same airplane to a new altitude record of 90,440 feet.

These records stood for less than three years. In September 1956, Capt. Iven Kincheloe became the first man to soar above 100,000 feet, as he piloted the Bell X-2 to a then-remarkable altitude of 126,200 feet. Flying the same

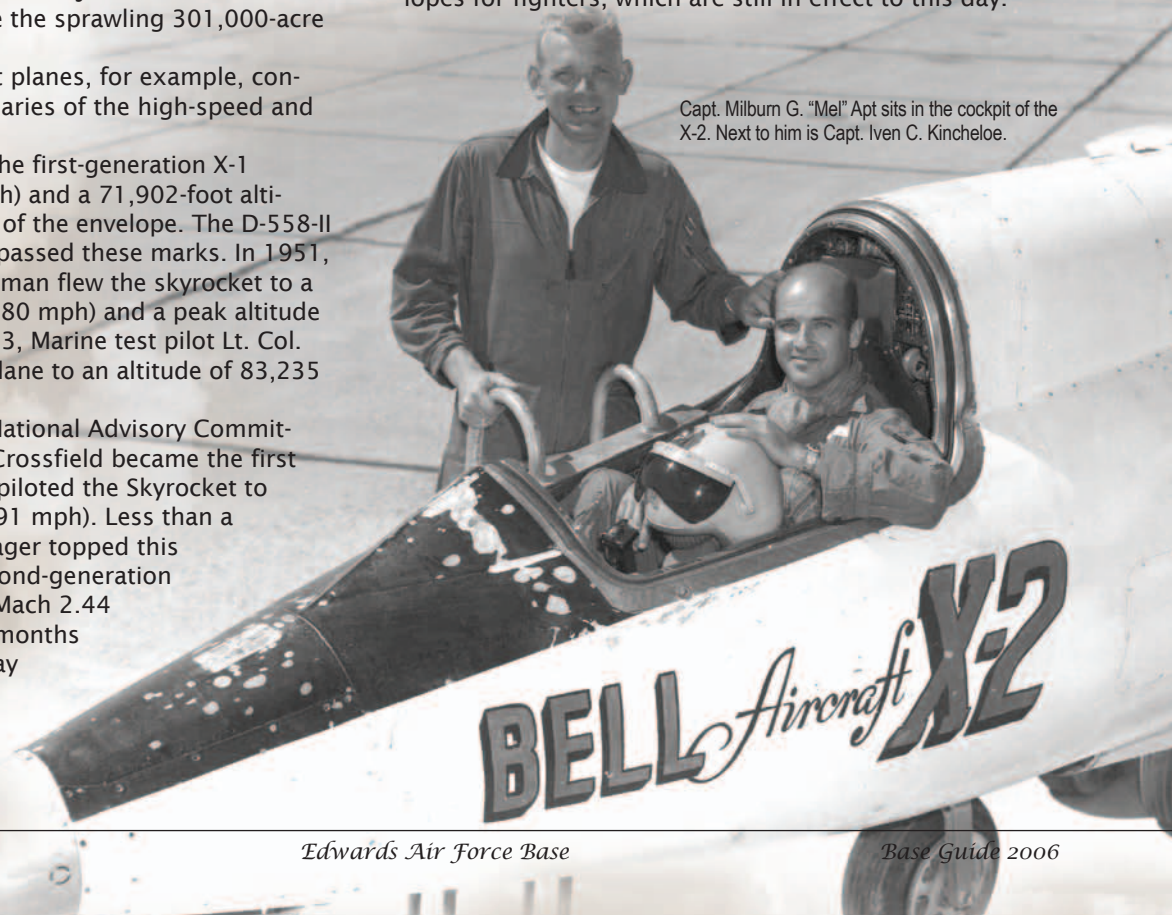
airplane just weeks later on Sept.

27, Capt. Mel Apt became the first to exceed Mach 3, accelerating to a speed of Mach 3.2 (2,094 mph). His moment of glory was tragically brief, however. Just seconds after attaining top speed, the X-2 tumbled violently out of control and Apt was never able to recover.

With the loss of the X-2, the search for many of the answers to the riddles of high-Mach flight had to be postponed until the arrival of the most ambitious of the rocket planes—the North American X-15.

Meanwhile, the turbojet revolution had reached a high plateau at Edwards, as aircraft such as the famed "Century Series" of fighters—the F-100 Super Sabre, F-102 Delta Dagger, the Mach 2 F-104 Starfighter, F-105 Thunderchief and F-106 Delta Dart—made supersonic flight seem almost commonplace.

Incorporating many advances made possible by the experimental research programs, each of these aircraft was a technological achievement and, indeed, as a group, they defined the basic speed and altitude envelopes for fighters, which are still in effect to this day.



Capt. Milburn G. "Mel" Apt sits in the cockpit of the X-2. Next to him is Capt. Iven C. Kincheloe.



It fell to Maj. Robert M. "Bob" White to explore some of the new X-15's remarkable capabilities. He launched from a B-52 mother aircraft on March 7, 1961, and using only 50 percent of thrust of his SLR99 rocket engine, became the first pilot to exceed Mach 4. In subsequent flights, Maj. White became the first to break Mach 5 and 6 as well. It had taken mankind nine years to get from Mach 1 to Mach 3 (1947-1956); White and the X-15 rocketed past the next three Mach numbers in just eight months.

1960s

The Space Age

The 1960s ushered in a new emphasis on space flight. The Test Pilot School, for example, was re-designated the Aerospace Research Pilot School as it moved into the business of training future astronauts.

High above the flightline, the X-15 was beginning to explore hypersonic and exoatmospheric flight. Indeed, in July 1962, it became the first—and, so far, the only—airplane to fly in near space as it soared above 314,000 feet, winning astronaut wings for its pilot, Maj. Robert M. White. With Maj. William J. "Pete" Knight at the controls on Oct. 3, 1967, the highly modified X-15A-2 ultimately reached a top speed of Mach 6.72 (4,520 mph), which remains the highest speed ever attained by a manned airplane.

While space-related activities captured the public's imagination, test pilots at Edwards were also continuing to expand the frontiers of atmospheric flight in air-breathing, jet-powered aircraft such as the XB-70 Valkyrie and the YF-12 and SR-71 Blackbird. The 500,000-pound Valkyrie proved itself capable of sustained triple-sonic flight operations at altitudes above 70,000 feet.

In the meantime, the mysterious Blackbirds, now described as first-generation "stealth" aircraft, pro-

vided even more dazzling performances as they routinely cruised at speeds in excess of Mach 3 (about 2,250 mph) and at altitudes well above 80,000 feet.

With the decline of the military manned space mission in the early '70s, the Aerospace Research Pilot School was once again re-designated the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School. This change was more than symbolic. Based on a survey of graduates still active in the flight test business, the school completely revamped its curriculum to reflect major changes that had recently taken place in the aerospace world.

Experience had shown that the proliferation of increasingly sophisticated onboard avionics, sensor and fire-control systems would be a constant and that supervising modern test programs would increasingly require strong management skills. Thus, the school replaced its space-oriented phase of curriculum with a whole new battery of courses focusing on systems tests and test management.

X-15A with test pilot, Pete Knight.
1965 NASA photo



F-16 Falcon
Courtesy photo

1980s

The 1980s opened with one of the most dramatic episodes in all of Edwards' history.

At 10:20 a.m. on April 14, 1981, the wheels of the Space Shuttle Columbia touched down on Rogers Dry Lakebed.

Astronauts

John Young and

Robert Crippen had suc-

cessfully landed the first orbiting

space vehicle ever to leave Earth under

rocket power and return on the wings of an

aircraft. The era of reusable space vehicles had

dawned.

In the meantime, flight testing itself had evolved into a remarkably complex process that led to a similar revolution in the Flight Test Center's ability to acquire and process flight data. In fact, the extraordinary number of costly flying hours required to test

and integrate all of the new systems under the

traditional "fly-fix-fly" method had forced the

AFFTC to rethink its whole approach to the

business of testing. Thus, the decade also saw

the development of sophisticated new facili-

ties at Edwards that met the challenges of the new

technologies.

The Integration Facility for Avionic Systems Test, the Benefield Anechoic Facility and the Test and Evaluation, Modeling and Simulation Facility — all part of the Avionics Test and Integration Complex, permitted the testing and integration of new and complex software-intensive systems on the ground before they were taken into the air.

Spectacular events have become almost commonplace at Edwards over the years, but they have always represented only a small part of the Flight Test Center's workload. The primary job has always been to assure that American aircrews go into combat with the most effective and reliable operational aircraft in the world.

The capabilities of existing aircraft such as the F-15 and F-16 have been continually refined and expanded, even as totally new aircraft and systems incorporating radical new technologies are developed for future operational use.

The dual-role F-15E, for example, was developed in the 1980s and went on to demonstrate truly remarkable combat effectiveness in the Persian Gulf conflict of the early 90s. The Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night, or LANTIRN, system revolutionized air-to-ground combat operations during the same conflict by denying our adversary the once comforting sanctuary of night.

The late 1980s also witnessed the arrival of the first giant flying wing to soar over the base in nearly 40 years. The thin silhouette, compound curves and other low-observable characteristics of the B-2 Spirit bomber represented third-generation stealth technology, following the SR-71 and F-117.

The Modern Skies 1970s

New aircraft types arrived in the 1970s: the F-15 Eagle with its advanced engine and fire-control system; the single-engine F-16 Falcon with its revolutionary, "fly-by-wire" flight control system; and the B-1 Lancer with its multitude of highly sophisticated offensive and defensive systems.

These planes more than bore out the prophecy concerning the ever-increasing importance of systems testing and integration. Moreover, another major new element of complexity was soon introduced into the flight test process.

At a remote location in 1978 and 1979, an AFFTC test pilot and a pair of flight test engineers were engaged in proof-of-concept testing with Lockheed's "low-observable" technology demonstrator, dubbed "Have Blue." The successful conduct of these tests led immediately to the development of a new subsonic attack aircraft that was designated the F-117A Nighthawk.

Another aerospace revolution—the stealth revolution—was underway.



F-117A Nighthawk
Courtesy photo

1990s and beyond

The new bomber, by far the most sophisticated and complex airplane ever built, was soon followed in the early 90s by the arrival of the YF-22A and the YF-23A, both of which would soon give a new definition to the term “air superiority.”

The two prototype fighters were the first airplanes to blend stealth with agility and high-speed, supersonic cruise capability. The YF-22A was selected to become the Air Force’s new advanced tactical fighter after a brief demonstration and validation risk reduction flight test program. Now named the Raptor, the F-22 continues to undergo test and evaluation at Edwards.

A new group of research projects came to Edwards in the 1990s. Global Hawk, an unmanned aerial vehicle that has been used extensively in Afghanistan as well as Iraq, made its first flight at Edwards in February 1998 and has gone on to fill a critical role in America’s war on terrorism. The X-24, X-33, X-34 and X-38, a series of new lifting bodies, technology demonstrators and half-scale models that might make space flight, research and development safer and more economical, were tested here by NASA during the decade.

The new millennium brought new projects with worldwide impact. The X-35A and X-32A, competing models for the Joint Strike Fighter program, made their first flights in September and October 2000. The X-35A won the competition in 2001 and will eventually be built in various versions for America’s flying armed services and for foreign air forces as well. Also new is the Airborne Laser Program and the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Program, currently undergoing development and modifications at Edwards.

B-2 Spirit bomber
Courtesy photo

Where We Stand Today

Flight testing at Edwards has come a long way since the first olive-drab XP-59A lifted off from the lakebed more than 60 years ago. Over the years, the U.S. Air Force and the world of aerospace have continued to meet the future in the clear blue skies above the base. Every single aircraft to enter the Air Force’s inventory — and a great many that failed to do so — has been put through its paces at Edwards. Some Navy and Army aircraft have been tested here as well.

Arguably, more major milestones in flight have occurred at this base than anywhere else in the world. The demands of the Global War on Terrorism and the ever-accelerating pace of technological change over the past half-century have been daunting, but the Edwards flight test community repeatedly demonstrates its ability to adapt to these changes and to master the many challenges they impose.

The turbojet revolution, the space revolution, the systems revolution and now the unmanned aircraft systems revolution have imposed seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Each barrier, however, has been overcome through a combination of technical aptitude, daring ingenuity and skillful management.

Indeed, the Air Force Flight Test Center’s unique blend of natural, technical and human resources has transformed it into something much more than a benefit to the Air Force; it is an irreplaceable national asset.

Global Hawk
unmanned aerial vehicle
Courtesy photo



MISSION



Air Force Flight Test Center

The Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., is the Air Force Materiel Command center of excellence for conducting and supporting research, development, test and evaluation of aerospace systems from concept to combat. It operates the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School and is home to NASA's Dryden Research Center and considerable test activity conducted by America's commercial aerospace industry.

From the development of the country's first jet aircraft to the Air Force's newest fighter, the F-22 Raptor, the test forces at Edwards have played a role in the development of virtually every aircraft to enter the Air Force inventory since World War II. With the center's capability of just-in-time testing, Edwards can provide real-time solutions during combat operations. This combat support establishes the Flight Test Center's direct and tangible link to the warfighter.

Guiding this considerable tasking is the Air Force Flight Test Center headquarters. Led by a two-star general and his command section, Flight Test Center staff agencies include contracting, financial management, history office, inspector general, intelligence, personnel, plans, protocol, public affairs, safety, small-business office and the staff judge advocate office.

The two major organizations supported by the center are the 412th Test Wing and the 95th Air Base Wing, with more than 10,000 service members and government employees.

The 412th Test Wing manages the center's flight operations programs and functions. In doing so, it manages all engineering support for manned and unmanned aerospace vehicle test programs. With many different types of planes operated by the 412th aircrews, the Edwards flightline takes on an almost expeditionary aerospace force look.

The aircraft flown here include the B-1B, B-2, B-52, C-12, C-17, C-130, NKC-135, KC-135, CV-22, F-16, F-22, F-117,

T-38 and T-39. Additionally, the Global Hawk and Predator unmanned aerial vehicles and L-23 glider are tested at Edwards. The Airborne Laser 747 test platform is currently undergoing development and modifications for testing, and in 2006, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft will be tested here.

The 412th Test Wing also programs, develops, operates and maintains engineering technical services and facilities which conduct and support testing, as well as operates and manages logistic support.

The test wing's support-side counterpart, the 95th Air Base Wing, led by the installation commander, runs Edwards like a small town, delivering a quality of life that makes the base a great place to live and work. The air base wing maintains the security, roads, buildings, transportation and community support services that make the flight test mission possible. It provides the housing, childcare, recreational activities and medical care that affect every person on base. Without the air base wing, the Flight Test Center could not succeed in helping to keep our Air Force the world's finest.



T-38 Talon
Courtesy photo

Test Wing & Air Base Wing Structure

412th Test Wing

- **U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School (TPS)**
- **412th Operations Group (OG)**
 - 410th Flight Test Squadron
 - 411th Flight Test Squadron
 - 412th Flight Test Squadron
 - 412th Operations Support Squadron
 - 416th Flight Test Squadron
 - 418th Flight Test Squadron
 - 419th Flight Test Squadron
 - 452nd Flight Test Squadron
 - 455th Flight Test Squadron
- **412th Maintenance Group (MXG)**
 - Facilities Management Division (MXF)
 - Instrumentation Division (IMXI)
 - Quality Assurance Division (MXQ)
 - Weapons Management Division (MXW)
 - 412th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS)
 - 412th Component Maintenance Squadron (CMS)
 - 412th Equipment Maintenance Squadron (EMS)
 - 412th Maintenance Operations Squadron (MOS)
- **Electronic Warfare Test Directorate (EW)**
 - Assessment Division (EWA)
 - Battlespace Operations Division (EWO)
 - Business Division (EWB)
 - Electronic Warfare Range Division (EWR)
 - Site Support Division (EWS)
 - Systems Division (EWF)
- **Engineering Directorate (EN)**
 - Avionics Systems Integration Division (ENV)
 - Flight Systems Integration Division (ENF)
 - Range Division (ENR)
 - Reliability, Maintainability & Logistics Test Division (ENL)
 - Test Instrumentation Division (ENI)
 - Test Technology Development Division (ENT)
- **Project Management Directorate (DR)**
 - Bid & Proposal Division (DRB)
 - Project Implementation Division (DRP)
 - Project Preparation Division (DRT)
 - Special Projects Division (DRJ)
- **Resource Management Directorate (RM)**
 - Financial Requirements Division (RMR)
 - Human Resources Division (RMH)
 - Planning & Analysis Division (RMP)



Airmen from the 412th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight finish installing the remaining components of bombs during a mass assembly.
Photo by Senior Airman Jet Fabara

95th Air Base Wing

DIRECTORATES

- **95th Air Force Flight Test Center Museum (MU)**
- **95th Chapel (HC)**
- **95th Civil Engineer & Transportation (CE/Trans)**
 - 95th Environmental Management Division (CEV)
- **95th Command Post (CP)**
- **95th Financial Management (FM)**
 - Financial Analysis Branch (FMA)
 - Financial Services (FMF)
 - Financial Management Systems (FME)
 - Quality Assurance (FMQ)
- **95th Judge Advocate Office (JA)**
- **95th Military Equal Opportunity (MEO)**
- **95th Planning & Resources (CA)**
- **95th Public Affairs (PA)**

GROUPS, DIVISIONS & SQUADRONS

- **95th Communications Group (CG)**
 - 95th Specialized Systems Division (CG/SCC)
 - 95th Executive Services Division (CG/SCE)
 - 95th Support Division (CG/SCS)
 - 95th Plans/Policy Division (CG/SCX)
 - 95th Communications Squadron (CS)
- **95th Medical Group**
 - 95th Aerospace Medicine Squadron (AMDS)
 - 95th Medical Operations Squadron (SGO)
 - 95th Medical Support Squadron (SGS)
- **95th Mission Support Group (MSG)**
 - 95th Mission Support Squadron (MSS)
 - 95th Security Forces Squadron (SFS)
 - 95th Services Division (SV)
 - 95th Logistics Readiness Division (LGR)
 - 95th Contracting Squadron (CONS)



Two Airborne Laser technicians take a sample of hydrogen peroxide.
Photo by Thomas Powell



Steven Rainey is one of six civilian test pilots brought on board via an Air Force Materiel Command initiative adding more experience to the test world while putting more pilots in operational aircraft. Mr. Rainey works for the 412th Test Wing. Photo by James Haseltine



An F-22 was tested at the Benefield Anechoic Facility. Photo by Derk Blanset.

Developmental Test And Evaluation

Edwards' contribution to the U.S. fighting forces results from test and evaluation—the bedrock of the Air Force Flight Test Center's existence.

The fundamental purpose of test and evaluation, known as T&E, is identifying risks that need to be reduced or eliminated before a system is sent to the field. Here, the primary type of test and evaluation is developmental.

Developmental T&E, known as DT&E, occurs as early as possible in the test and evaluation process and involves close collaboration with the system developer when it's still practical and affordable to change design. It serves as a bridge between system designers and operational users.



This C-17 Globemaster III was undergoing testing in the Benefield Anechoic Facility for a third round of Electromagnetic Interference and Electromagnetic Compatibility testing. The testing was to evaluate the compatibility between existing and upgraded avionics hardware. Photo by Brad White

Operational test and evaluation, known as OT&E, takes a system shaped by DT&E and determines whether it's effective and suitable for its operational mission.

The present Air Force test and evaluation philosophy employs combined DT&E and OT&E to increase efficiency and ensure participation by operational testers prior to major acquisition milestones. The center relies on the combined test force to carry out this mission.

A combined test force, known as CTF, is an integrated product team consisting of three independent groups—a contractor test team, an Air Force developmental test team and an Air Force initial operational test team—working together to meet respective taskings. The purpose of the CTF concept is to minimize duplication and accomplish required test programs while conserving resources.

Besides flight test facilities, the Flight Test Center has an array of ground test facilities. The Avionics Test and Integration Complex, which includes the massive Benefield Anechoic Facility, allows for complete testing of a fully integrated avionics suite in a simulated flight environment, including electronic threats and computer software checkout.

For example, when aircraft systems are tested for integration with other on-board functions, a plane is placed inside the BAF's anechoic chamber—the world's largest electronically secure and quiet environment that realistically simulates an outdoor range. The benefit of this and other modeling and simulation is safer, less expensive testing.

One of Edwards' critical T&E capabilities is the T&E intellectual capital to accomplish the T&E mission for our command and the Air Force. Other aircraft test resources at Edwards range from general support aircraft to extensively modified weapon systems with a full range of instrumentation. Some of the center's flight test engineering capabilities focus on propulsion, human factors, manned and unmanned aerospace vehicles, hypersonic testing, weapons delivery and parachute equipment.



Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle

Linked To Global Engagement

These and other disciplines directly link Edwards to a vision for the 21st century America's Air Force. As the Air Force transforms into an expeditionary aerospace force, the center will march in step with its T&E mission by...

- Ensuring weapons systems—needed to control what moves through air and space—perform as advertised
- Ensuring long-range combat platforms can reach beyond friendly borders and can respond effectively in any crisis
- Ensuring airlift and aerial refueling aircraft can move forces and firepower anywhere in the world at any time
- Ensuring fighters and bombers can successfully apply selective force against specific targets
- Ensuring intelligence-gathering planes and unmanned aerial vehicles can deliver powerful knowledge
- Ensuring Edwards' troops are trained thoroughly to join an air expeditionary force deploying to a global hot spot



X-35A Joint Strike Fighter refueling from a KC-135 tanker.
Photo by Judson Brohmer

ASSOCIATES



31ST TEST AND EVALUATION SQUADRON

60 N. Wolfe Ave.

(661) 277-2366 or DSN 527-2366

The 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron, established in 1917, is the home of Air Combat Command's maintenance, engineering and air crew experts who test, assess and evaluate effectiveness and suitability of new, multi-billion dollar U.S. Air Force weapons systems.

The Desert Pirates, as they are called, are the sole ACC organization at Edwards and are part of the 53rd Test and Evaluation Group, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and the 53rd Wing, Eglin AFB, Fla.

The 31st represents the operational combat user during early flight testing to ensure the warfighter receives the world's best operational systems.

The unit is manned with operations, maintenance and engineering experts who plan and conduct tests, evaluate effectiveness and suitability and influence system designs with an operational perspective. Unit personnel are integrated into the F-22, B-1, B-2, B-52, Global Hawk, Predator, MQ-9, Joint Strike Fighter and Airborne Laser programs. Their results and conclusions support Department of Defense acquisition, deployment and employment decisions.

AIR FORCE AUDIT AGENCY AT EDWARDS

90 Farrell Dr.

(661) 277-2899 or DSN 527-2899

The Edwards Area Audit Team provides the Air Force Flight Test Center, Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate, Plant 42 and March Air Reserve Base, Calif., independent, objective and quality audit services. These audit services promote the economy and efficiency of operations; evaluate programs and activities to assist management in achieving desired results; and assess fiduciary stewardship and accuracy of financial reporting.

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND STUDIES AND ANALYSIS SQUADRON OPERATING LOCATION - A

118 S. Wolfe Ave.

(661) 277-3501 or DSN 527-3501

AETC SAS, OL-A is a component of headquarters AETC and supports the Air Force and Department of Defense in the development of requirements and acquisition strategies of Air Force training systems. At Edwards, OL-A assists in the development of training systems for brand new acquisition systems, such as the Joint Strike Fighter and Airborne Laser programs. In addition to providing subject matter expertise in maintenance training, OL-A conducts Training System Requirements Analysis as outlined in AFI 36-2251 on the Air Force Integrated Maintenance Data System and Multi-sensor Command and Control Aircraft systems.



Photo by Thomas Powell

AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, DETACHMENT 111

115 E. Yeager Blvd.

(661) 277-2208 or DSN 527-2208

AFOSI, Detachment 111, provides special investigative services for the protection of Air Force and Department of Defense personnel, operations and material at Edwards. The unit strives to detect and provide early warning of worldwide threats to the Air Force, identify and resolve crime that threatens Air Force readiness or good order and discipline, combat threats to information systems and technologies, and detects/deters fraud in the acquisition of U.S. Air Force prioritized weapons systems.

AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION CENTER, DETACHMENT 5

192 E. Yeager Blvd.

(661) 277-3666 or DSN 527-3666

Detachment 5 is a component of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center located at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. AFOTEC personnel work closely with the test center's combined test forces from concept development through system employment. The detachment primarily focuses on the critical follow-on process to the Air Force Flight Test Center's developmental test and evaluation effort. Injecting operational realism into the flight test program, AFOTEC personnel evaluate production-representative systems, under operational conditions, to ensure the nation's warfighters have the right tools to accomplish the mission effectively.

AIR FORCE PLANT 42 PRODUCTION FLIGHT TEST INSTALLATION

Palmdale, Calif.

Air Force Plant 42 is a government-owned, contractor-operated facility with proximity to both the concentration of aerospace industry in Los Angeles and the high-speed corridors and resources of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards. The facility is uniquely situated to fully support the nation's newest and most advanced commercial and military aerospace systems. Air Force Plant 42 is one of four Air Force plants located throughout the United States and differs in that it hosts three major defense contractors: Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

The mission of Air Force Plant 42 is to provide industrial facilities for production, modification, and depot maintenance and flight test of U.S. aerospace systems. Air Force Plant 42 is composed of the following military units, as well as the three DoD contractors mentioned above:

Aeronautical Systems Center, Detachment 1

2503 E. Ave. P

Palmdale, Calif.

(661) 272-6770

Detachment 1, a component of ASC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, provides command and control of Air Force Plant 42, airfield complex and industrial facilities used for production, modification, depot maintenance and flight test of U.S. aerospace systems. The unit provides security, airfield management, maintenance and engineering support, fire protection, crash and rescue, recovery and safety, information management, and contract and property management.

410th Flight Test Squadron/F-117A Combined Test Force

15th St. E. and Ave. P

Palmdale, Calif.

(661) 572-5190

The 410th Flight Test Squadron, a part of the 412th Test Wing and Air Force Flight Test Center, provides operational F-117A support by conducting all developmental test and evaluation and depot maintenance acceptance flights prior to return to operational units.

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Detachment 2

2030 E. Ave. M

Palmdale, Calif.

(661) 277-4000

Detachment 2, a unit of Warner Robins ALC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., is the sole Air Force unit responsible for planning, conducting and reporting on all U-2 flight test programs. The unit conducts U-2 developmental and operational mission support and post-depot maintenance acceptance flights. The unit also provides quality assurance oversight of depot and flight test maintenance activity and validates technical changes to the aircraft, equipment and technical publications.



Courtesy photo

Rocket research and validation are combined at the Air Force Research Lab's 65 square mile facility to make sure propulsion systems like the ATLAS V Solid Rocket Boosters can accomplish their job of boosting Pluto-bound spacecraft and many other heavy-lift tasks.

AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY PROPULSION DIRECTORATE, DETACHMENT 7

Public Affairs Office, 5 Pollux Dr.
(661) 275-5465 or DSN 525-5465
<http://www.pr.afrl.af.mil>

Development of rocket propulsion technologies for current and future Air Force space and missile systems is the responsibility of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate at Edwards.

The Air Force Research Laboratory, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, encompasses all Air Force research and development with directorates and facilities throughout the United States.

The directorate here has devoted its efforts to the discovery, development and application of scientific and engineering answers to national defense rocket propulsion needs for more than 50 years.

More than 250 scientists, engineers, technicians and support staff advance this technology area. They are assisted by additional on-site contractors and base support organizations.

The propulsion directorate is the development center for all Air Force rocket and missile propulsion technologies including propellants, combustion, characterization of exhaust plumes, and the materials and structures unique to rocket propulsion. Nearly every U.S. rocket-propelled system used today for tactical operations, ballistic launch, space launch and space operations can trace its technology back to this facility.

The directorate's unique state-of-the-art research equipment and physical assets cover more than 65 square miles of Edwards. They include static rocket test stands capable of holding test firings up to 10 million pounds of thrust.

Known historically as the "Rocket Site," its current efforts are devoted to a national master plan for rocket propulsion technology research involving all military services, NASA and the rocket industry. Called IHPRPT, or Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology, this research, coupled with advanced propulsion concept demonstrations will push the advancement of rocket propulsion technology into the new century.

AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL

20 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 277-2809 or DSN 527-2809

The Area Defense Counsel, the equivalent of a public defender, represents active duty military members who are accused of crimes or adverse administrative actions. The counsel focuses on legal issues pertaining to military justice such as letters of reprimand, Articles 15, courts martial and medical or flying evaluation boards.

ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

W. 240 FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078

In a continuing effort to improve quality of life at Edwards, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service provides the community with services, products and retail facilities from the Shoppette complex with a Class Six, Pizza Hut and Subway to a Car Care Center with 24-hour, credit-card-reader gas dispensers and Enterprise Car Rental.

Located in the 73,000-square-foot base exchange complex are military clothing sales, beauty and barbershops, a same-day optical shop, a florist, cellular phone store, alterations shop, a General Nutrition Center and an Armed Forces Bank. Additionally, the exchange food court houses Anthony's Pizza, Baskin Robbins, Charley's Steakery, Popeye's Chicken, Robin Hood, Taco Bell Express and Xtreme Franks.

AAFES provides other food facilities, concessions and snack bars, including Burger King, the Thai Garden restaurant and cafeterias at South Base, NASA, Base Operations, Rocket Lab and at Mary's Place located in Bldg. 1600. For further shopping convenience, AAFES features a dry cleaners and laundromat. There is also a Troop Store at 20 W. Popson Ave., with a barbershop on base.

CIVIL AIR PATROL, EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE COMPOSITE, SQUADRON 84

Muroc Manor, Bldg. P-1
16 Rest Rd., South Base
(661) 277-6543 or DSN 527-6543

<http://www.geocities.com/capsquadron84>

Meetings are every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Civil Air Patrol is a professional, volunteer, nonprofit organization with over 58,000 members and is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. CAP has three primary missions: operating a first-rate cadet program that includes leadership training, teamwork and discipline, aerospace education, physical fitness and character development; fostering an understanding of aeronautics through aerospace education; and supporting emergency services through disaster relief efforts, humanitarian assistance, and Air Force Rescue Coordination Center directed inland search and rescue missions. Membership in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program begins at age 12 and lasts through age 21, while adults over the age of 18 may join as senior members. For more information on CAP programs and membership benefits including scholarships, military grade advancement and military service academy appointment statistics, go to <http://www.cap.gov/data/FactSheet.pdf>.

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY

312 W. FitzGerald Ave.
(661) 277-4589, extension 3001 or
DSN 527-4589, extension 3001

The Defense Commissary Agency aims to ensure military readiness and retention of quality personnel by providing a valuable part of the military compensation package. The Edwards Commissary strives to enhance quality of life by providing groceries and household supplies at cost resale value. The commissary is open Monday, noon-6 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. A full-service deli, bakery and meat counter is available.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION HIGH DESERT TERMINAL RADAR APPROACH CONTROL

100 E. Sparks Rd.
(661) 258-6300 or DSN 527-2023

The FAA's High Desert TRACON, radio call sign Joshua Approach, provides mission-related air traffic control services to Department of Defense and DoD-sponsored aircraft within the entire R-2508 airspace complex, encompassing nearly 25,000 square miles.

The TRACON's Department of Transportation, FAA civilian personnel also provide air traffic control services to civil aircraft within and outside the special-use airspace.

FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

70 E. Forbes Ave.
(661) 277-4865, 277-3287 or 277-8753

The Center for Federal Investigative Services is an agency within the Office of Personnel Management. FIS personnel conduct personnel security investigations for civilian, military and industrial personnel who require access to classified Department of Defense information. FIS also conducts investigations on individuals entering positions of public trust.



Lance Cpl. Jose D. Aquino, a CH-46E helicopter mechanic with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764 and Northridge, Calif. native, inspects the aft rotor head of a CH-46E after doing repairs on it. Aquino and the other mechanics in the squadron have been working hard to help the squadron maintain top quality helicopters.
Photo by Marine Sgt. Juan Vara



A CH-53 Sea Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 769 flies towards the mountains near a forward operating base in Afghanistan. Photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Rusty Baker

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 46, DETACHMENT BRAVO

199 S. Wolfe Ave.
(661) 275-3435 or 275-3446

Two Marine Corps Reserve helicopter squadrons and the detachment headquarters support staff representing the command at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, north of San Diego, Calif., relocated to Edwards in May 1999 following the closure of Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif. There are more than 350 Marines and sailors here with about half of those being active duty and living in the local area, and the others being Reservists commuting from their homes throughout California and the United States.

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 769 (HMH-769) operates 11 CH-53E Super Stallions. Their mission is to transport heavy equipment, weapons and supplies during ship-to-shore movements and amphibious assaults.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764 (HMM-764) operates 13 CH-46E Sea Knights. Their mission is to transport combat troops in initial assault waves and follow-on stages of amphibious operations ashore.

Both squadrons primarily support Marines at the nearest Marine Corps bases, Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms, Calif. while assisting Team Edwards with VIP transport, medical evacuations, photo and shuttle landing support and other assistance during base and community emergencies.

U.S. ARMY VETERINARY SERVICE

900 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 275-PETS or DSN 525-7387

The U.S. Army Veterinary Service provides comprehensive veterinary care to all government-owned animals such as the 95th Security Forces Squadron's military working dogs, and to all service members' privately-owned animals, through the Veterinary Treatment Facility. The service is also in charge of coordinating food safety missions at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station and performing sanitary audits on multiple commercial food production establishments. The service also maintains a liaison with local veterinary professional organizations in order to provide assistance during civic emergencies.



Photo by Jim Ross

NASA DRYDEN FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

Public Affairs Office, 4800 Lilly Dr., Bldg. 4839

(661) 276-3449

<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/home/index.html>

The Dryden Flight Research Center, NASA's premier installation for aeronautical flight research, is chartered to research, develop and verify advanced aeronautics, space and related technologies for atmospheric flight operations, and to transfer those technologies to industry and other government agencies. The center also supports the Space Shuttle program as an alternate landing site.

The center is named in honor of Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, an internationally known aeronautical scientist who served as director of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), NASA's predecessor organization, and later as deputy administrator of NASA.

Dryden's history dates back to late 1946, when 13 engineers arrived at what is now Edwards from the NACA Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, Hampton, Va. Their goal was to support the first supersonic research flights by the X-1 rocket plane in a joint NACA, Army Air Forces and Bell Aircraft program.

Since the days of the X-1, the first aircraft to fly faster than the speed of sound, the center has grown in size and significance and is associated with many important milestones in aviation and space research: supersonic and hypersonic flight, wingless lifting bodies, fly-by-wire, supercritical and forward-swept wings and the space shuttles.

Dryden continues to conduct flight research projects that support NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission, contributing to barrier-breaking leaps in aeronautics technology.

The site of the first approach-and-landing tests of the prototype space shuttle orbiter Enterprise in 1977, Dryden has supported 50 space shuttle landings at Edwards since the first orbital flight in April 1981. Although the Kennedy Space Center in Florida is now the primary landing site for all shuttle missions, Edwards remains the backup shuttle landing site when inclement weather or

other situations preclude a landing in Florida. After an Edwards' landing, space shuttles are serviced at Dryden for ferry flights back to Kennedy in Florida atop one of NASA's two modified Boeing 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft.

Along with research and support aircraft, Dryden assets include simulation laboratories, a high-temperature and loads-calibration laboratory, aircraft flight-instrumentation capability, a flow-visualization facility to study air-flow patterns, a data-analysis facility to process flight research data, and remotely piloted vehicle flight research expertise.

In addition, Dryden's Research Aircraft Integration Facility simultaneously checks aircraft flight controls, avionics, electronics and other systems. This facility is the only one of its type in NASA and is designed to speed up and enhance systems integration and preflight checks on research aircraft.

From a handful of engineers who established the center in the late 1940s, NASA Dryden now employs about 1,000 civil service and contract workers.



Space Shuttle Discovery sits at the end of the runway at Edwards Air Force Base after its safe landing Aug. 9, 2005. The shuttle returned from a 14-day mission in space.

Photo by Senior Airman Jet Fabara

CONTRACTORS

- Accent Services Comp. Inc.
(Custodial services)
(661) 258-4181
- Ace Engineering, Inc.
(SABER)
(661) 277-1750
- AMPB Security Services
(661) 277-3714
- Bell-Boeing Company
(CV-22)
(661) 277-6868, Ext. 2788
- The Boeing Company
(661) 275-3169
FAX (661) 275-3179
- Chugach Management
Services, Inc.
(Family Housing
Maintenance)
(661) 258-1044
- E-Med Tech, Inc.
(AFRL Ambulance and EMTs)
(661) 275-5333
- ERC
(AFRL Research in
Propulsion Sciences)
(661) 275-6178
- General Electric
(661) 277-7347
- J. K. Hill & Associates, Inc.
(661) 277-3522
- J. Torres Company
(Refuse/recycling)
(661) 277-7407
- JT3
(J-TECH)
(661) 277-9107
- Linker Services
(Food service)
(661) 258-4021
- Lockheed Martin
Marietta, Ga.
(F-22)
(661) 277-5804
- Lockheed Martin
Fort Worth, Texas
(F-16)
(661) 277-4216
FAX (661) 277-2645
- N & N Travel Services
(Official travel only)
(661) 277-3160
- Northrop/Grumman
(B-2)
(661) 275-0004
FAX (661) 275-0010
- Northrop/Grumman
(RAC)
(661) 275-0609
- Pratt & Whitney
(661) 275-4193
FAX (661) 258-6523
- Raytheon Aerospace
(661) 277-9777 or
(661) 277-9790
- Spiral Technology
(AFRL Advanced Research
and Engineering Support)
(661) 275-5678
- Sverdrup Technology,
(AFRL Research Operations
Support Services)
(661) 275-5618
- TYBRIN
(661) 277-0096 or
(661) 277-0141
- Veridian Engineering
(661) 277-9537 or
(661) 277-2764



Ridley Mission Control
Courtesy photo

NEWCOMERS



Photo by John Wilson

Whether you arrive during the day or night, weekday or weekend, your first stop should be the 24-hour arrival point at the Edwards' High Desert Inn lodging office, Bldg. 5602, 602 Honts, just off Manzanita Way in the base housing area. Should you need directions or information upon arriving at Edwards, a security forces gate guard will be happy to assist you.



Lake Muroc Golf Course. Photo by John Wilson



All officer accessions and prior service enlisted accessions (first duty station as an officer) should report directly to the Personnel Employment office at the Military Personnel Flight for in-processing prior to reporting to their respective units. The MPF is located in the Consolidated Support Facility, 5 Seller Ave., Bldg. 3000, on main base. In-processing for all other enlisted and officer personnel is conducted at the gaining unit. You should report to your gaining unit as soon as possible after visiting the 24-hour arrival point. Ask your sponsor to escort you. You must take your personnel records and all other documents that you may have hand-carried.

Your unit will contact the Personnel Employment office for scheduling of the Desert Warrior Orientation Program appointment for initial base orientation. DWOP lasts one day, the second and fourth Mondays of each month, beginning at 7:30 a.m., and is held in the Conference Center, Bldg. 5620. The unit will also schedule several appointments, including traffic safety, drug and alcohol awareness, human relations and education briefings. A uniform must be worn when inprocessing. In the event of an emergency while en route to Edwards, travelers should call the new unit of assignment. If that information is unknown, call the intro manager at (661) 277-2276 or DSN 527-2276 during the day, or the 24-hour arrival point at (661) 277-3302/3394/4101 or DSN 527-3302/3394/4101 at any hour.



Photo by Thomas Powell



Photo by Thomas Powell

CHILD CARE

Free Childcare For Newcomers

A maximum of 20 hours of free childcare per child is available through the Air Force Aid Society to parents of all ranks who are making a permanent change of station move to or from Edwards. The childcare is available within 30 days of arrival or departure and is provided by Family Childcare Program providers. Parents may apply for childcare by bringing a copy of their orders and a valid ID to the family support center at 550 S. Bailey Ave. Call the center at (661) 277-0723 or DSN 527-0723. Families who do not yet have orders should visit the center to arrange confirmation of their PCS status.

Child Development Center

1208 W. FitzGerald Blvd.

(661) 275-TOTS or DSN 525-TOTS

The CDC, located in the housing area, provides developmental care for children 6 weeks to 5 years old for both military members and Department of Defense and NASA civilians. The CDC is open Monday through Friday and is closed for all federal holidays. Hourly care and part-day



Photo by Thomas Powell

enrichment programs are available. The Center participates in the Give Parents a Break program with hourly care offered. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks are served on a daily basis. All meals are in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines.

Planned activities include dramatic play, blocks, art, music, reading and writing centers, indoor and outdoor gross motor play, science and language. As part of the creative curriculum, all children are exposed to a variety of developmental activities to promote their social, physical and cognitive growth.

Family Childcare Program

311 14th St.

(661) 275-4FCC or DSN 525-4322

The Edwards Family Childcare Program offers an alternative option for quality childcare in a home environment. Licensed providers are trained in child development theory and techniques, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, food handling and other related areas. Fire Department, Safety, Public Health and family childcare officials conduct inspections on all homes prior to recommending licensure. Throughout the licensure period, unannounced monthly inspections are conducted to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the children in care.

A referral list of licensed providers is available through squadron first sergeants, the Family Child Care office, Child Development Center, most Services facilities and the Family Support Center. The referral list is also available on the 95th Services Division Web site at <http://www.edwardsservices.com>

All persons providing childcare in their home for more than 10 hours per week must be licensed. Applications and information on becoming a childcare provider, or personal assistance in finding quality in-home childcare, is available at the FCC office. The office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; and by appointment, if needed.



Youth at Edwards learn the basics of skateboarding at a skateboard camp offered at the Skate Park.
Photo by Airman 1st Class Francesca Carrano

Teen Center

1000 Kincheloe Ave.

(661) 275-TEEN or DSN 525-TEEN

The Teen Center, designed to allow teens a place of their own, provides after-school and weekend activities for teens ages 13 to 18, in grades seven through 12. The center is an affiliated member of the Boys and Girls Club of America and offers many B&GCA programs, as well as Air Force and Edwards-unique programs.

- **The Keystone Club**, a B&GCA program sponsored by the Taco Bell Foundation, provides teens ages 14 to 18 leadership opportunities within the base community. Activities include fund raising, volunteerism, team building, participation in national conventions and discussion of issues most important to base youth.
- **The Congressional Awards Program** allows teens and young adults the opportunity to be rewarded for reaching personal goals set throughout the year in four different areas of achievement. The program strives to develop and enhance positive personal qualities such as responsibility, citizenship and the ability to plan and organize. Participants receive certificates and medals of recognition for reaching their goals.
- **The Youth of the Year Program**, a B&GCA initiative sponsored by Reader's Digest, recognizes teens ages 14 to 18 for overall excellence. Each teen

selected will represent their individual club in state and national competitions. Award winners may receive up to \$15,000 in scholarships for postsecondary education.

- **The Youth Employment Skills**, or YES program, sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society, provides high school teens, specifically family members of parents serving in the active duty military, the opportunity to earn a postsecondary school grant of up to \$1,000 by volunteering at base agencies.
- **Teens on the Move**, a sponsorship program run in coordination with the Family Support Center, helps teens moving from one base to another move smoothly, and quickly adjust to life in the Edwards community. Incoming teens may be matched to Edwards teen sponsors to receive information on base life from a peer's perspective before arriving. The center features game tables, music, lounge and homework areas, Internet accessibility and video games. The center arranges programs such as a teen club, glow-in-the-dark bowling and monthly movie education days.

Youth Program

Youth Activities Main Center, 24 Lathrop Dr.

(661) 275-KIDS or DSN 525-5437

Youth Annex, 1208 W. FitzGerald Blvd.

(661) 275-PLAY or DSN 525-7529

Youth Programs is the focal point for all youth activities at Edwards. A wide range of supervised programs is available to youth ages 5 to 18. Youths 13 and older may find additional programs available through the Teen Center.

Youth Programs offer an array of youth, preteen and teen activities including dances, holiday and family events, picnics and trips. Professional instruction is available through the center for ballet, tap dance, gymnastics and karate. The center relies on both youth and parents to take an active role in shaping the programs.

- **The School Age Program** provides before and after school childcare and is facilitated by both the Youth Activities main center and annex. The annex provides programming for students in kindergarten through second grade, while the main center provides programming for students in third through sixth grade. Activities include art, music, dramatic play, outdoor play, science, math and reading. Transportation to and from the base schools is provided. Summer camp programs are also available. Students must have completed kindergarten to register for camp programs.
- **The General Youth Program** provides after-school activities for children ages 9 to 12. On non-school days and during the summer, activities are provided Monday-Friday, noon-6 p.m.; and Saturday, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.
- The center also facilitates the **Youth Sports and Fitness Program** for children ages 5 to 18. The program offers a wide range of sports activities throughout the year and provides children a chance to compete and gain instruction and confidence in such sports as flag football, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMERGENCIES: 911

NON-EMERGENCIES

95th Security Forces Squadron:

(661) 277-3340/3341/3343 or

DSN 527-3340/3341/3343

CHAPLAIN

Duty hours: (661) 277-2110 or DSN 527-2110

After-duty hours: (661) 277-3040 or DSN 527-3040

All on-base emergencies can be reported by calling 911. If using a cell phone, it is not recommended to dial 911, as the call will be relayed to the location of the cell phone service provider. Emergency cell phone calls should be made to the base fire department's communication center at (661) 277-4540 or 277-4541.

Paramedic treatment and ambulance service is available 24 hours a day by dialing 911. The 95th Security Forces Control Center is open 24 hours a day. Counseling as provided by a base chaplain is available at any time.



Photo by Thomas Powell

Fire department emergency response is provided by a network of five fire stations located across the base. Fire Station 1 provides service to the flightline; Station 2 to the base housing area; Station 3 to the southern portion of the base; Station 4 to the Air Force Research Lab, propulsion directorate; and Station 5 to the northern portion of the base. Fire prevention training is available by calling (661) 277-3643/4621 or DSN 527-3643/4621.

Commuting

The two primary commuting routes to Edwards' main base are California State Highway 14, also known as the Antelope Valley Freeway, for people living in Lancaster, Palmdale and other cities and towns to the south, and California State Highway 58 for people living north or east of Edwards. Highway 58 is the main route to reach the Air Force Research Lab. Speed limits along these roads are in the 65- to 70-mph range, making it practical to live relatively far from base. Traffic is rare, but—as is common at all bases—it can back up at the gates during periods of increased security. There is no public transportation serving Edwards at this time, though carpooling is encouraged. A minimum commute to base is roughly 20 minutes.

Employment Opportunities

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL FLIGHT

5 N. Seller Ave.

(661) 277-3840 or DSN 527-3840

The Civilian Personnel Flight has many types of positions available including student positions and a summer employment program. Positions range from professional and technical to administrative and trade occupations. The CPF offers entry level and senior level management positions. Positions are open to all U.S. citizens.

For more information about civil service employment, go to the Web site <http://careers.edwards.af.mil>, or call the 24-hour job information line at (661) 277-4964. Some positions are listed on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>, or call their job information line at (800) 699-4473.

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

Consolidated Support Facility

Bldg. 3000, Second Floor

5 Seller Ave.

(661) 275-9675 or DSN 525-9675

Information about non-appropriated fund employment is available at the Human Resources Office, or by writing to 95 MSG/SVH, 5 Seller Ave., Edwards AFB, Calif. 93524-1032. NAF employment is open to off-duty military as well as family members. The 95th Services HRO employs more than 300 people and offers opportunities from entry level laborer to technical and midlevel management positions. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis from all qualified applicants and are kept on file for 90 days.

Finance

5 S. Wolfe Ave., Bldg. 2800

The **Financial Services Office** serves all government agencies, military, and civilian personnel on base by certifying funding and providing a financial management liaison between Department of Defense organizations, commercial vendors and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Customer Service provides support on financial matters, including military, civilian and travel pay. The Customer Support Lobby is open for business from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday. The busiest times are usually 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Customer Service can also be contacted via e-mail at customer.service@edwards.af.mil.

For assistance please call:

Military Pay (277-4550)

Travel Pay (277-2441)

Civilian Pay (277-4561)

Accounting Liaison (277-7229)

Financial Services Officer (277-4599)

The Air Force Aid Society is available for emergency financial assistance and can be contacted through the Family Support Center at 277-0723, or after duty hours at 277-3040.

FIREARMS

REGISTRATION, STORAGE and TRANSPORT

105 E. Yeager Blvd.

(661) 277-3526 or DSN 527-3526

All base residents who maintain firearms or unusually dangerous weapons must register them with the 95th Security Forces Squadron by completing an Air Force Form 1314 in three copies with their unit commander's signature. The form must also include the member's address, home phone number and work phone number. Personnel possessing firearms must comply with all federal, state and local laws, ordinances and military regulations on registering, storing, bearing, possessing and using firearms.

All firearms and unusually dangerous weapons owned by or in the custody of personnel who reside in the dormitories or in Desert Villa temporary lodging facilities, while on temporary duty or in the process of a permanent change of station, must be registered and stored at the 95th SFS armory immediately upon arrival to the base. Family housing residents may maintain firearms and unusually dangerous weapons in their homes with their commander's approval. Housing residents storing reloading components or ammunition in their homes must notify the installation fire department at (661) 277-3124 or DSN 527-3124.

Ammunition must be stored and locked separately from any weapon. Transporting privately owned firearms on base is prohibited except to and from authorized storage and shooting areas, namely the Rod and Gun Activity and the 95th SFS Combat Arms Range. When transporting firearms, they must be cleared, with the safety on and unconcealed with the breech open and must be in the trunk or other secured compartment closest to the rear of the vehicle. Transporting firearms on bicycles, motorcycles or any other two or three-wheeled vehicle is prohibited.

The following is a list of unusually dangerous weapons beyond firearms that must be registered on base: swords, knives, daggers with a blade longer than 12 inches (this excludes dulled swords used for plaques, shadow boxes or ornamentation; if the blade is sharpened, it must be registered), edged martial arts equipment (such as stars, throwing darts), archery equipment (including bows, crossbows and arrows).

HELPING RESOURCES

Airmen's Attic

Bldg. 7211

(661) 277-2246 or DSN 527-2246

The Airmen's Attic is managed by the Top 3 and offers a variety of free clothing items and small household items such as dishes, pots and pans, furniture items. Donations are always accepted.

American Red Cross

2715 E. Ave. P, Palmdale, Calif.

(661) 267-0650 Monday-Friday, during business

hours (661) 277-3040 After business hours,

Saturday, Sunday and holidays

Emergency services are available on a 24-hour basis, 365 days a year. American Red Cross services include, but are not limited to, emergency communication, financial assistance, counseling and guidance, referrals and information regarding veteran benefits, first aid, youth programs, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, water safety training, blood donation programs, disaster preparedness and relief, and community outreach.

Military personnel on temporary duty or unaccompanied tours are encouraged to instruct family members to contact their local American Red Cross when a family emergency arises, and to provide the service member's rank, social security number and unit of assignment. This will expedite the process of contacting the military member.

Chapel Community and Religious Activities

Chapel 1: 15 N. Popson Ave., (661) 277-2110

Chapel 2: 10 Park Dr., (661) 277-2110

There are two base chapels: Chapel 1, located on the main base; and Chapel 2, located in the family housing area. The chapel staff maintains normal duty hours at Chapel 2; however, a duty chaplain is available on a 24-hour basis by calling the command post at (661) 277-3040. The chapel staff and volunteers host groups of men, women, youth and children in Bible study, religious initiation, instruction, social ministry, confirmation and service, as well as personal growth, parenting guidance and marriage enrichment. Protestant and Roman Catholic worship services are held regularly at both chapels. Islamic prayer meetings are held at Chapel 1. For additional information on Buddhist, Jewish, Orthodox Christian services or any other faith group, contact the Wing Chaplain at 277-2110.

Chapel Food Closet and Edwards Emergency Relief Fund

Chapel 2, 10 Park Dr.

(661) 277-2110 or DSN 527-2110

The Chapel Food Closet and the Edwards Emergency Relief Fund are available to Airmen experiencing financial hardship and looking for assistance in obtaining food items or financial relief. Referrals should be made initially through first sergeants.

Equal Employment Opportunity

(661) 277-3338 or DSN 527-3338

It is the policy of the U.S. Air Force to provide equal opportunity in employment for all persons, to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, sex (including equal pay), religion, national origin, age (40 and over),

Family Support Center

550 S. Bailey Ave.

(661) 277-0723 or DSN 527-0723

The Family Support Center supports the Air Force mission by supporting the Air Force family. The FSC serves all active duty, Department of Defense civilians, Guard, Reserves, retirees and their family members. The FSC provides individual consultations, workshops and products to help people remain mission ready and enjoy a high quality of life. Watch the Commander's Access Channel (Channel 6), read the Desert Wings base newspaper, or drop by the FSC to learn more about current programs.

Key programs available at the center include the following:

- Air Force Aid Society assistance is available 24 hours, seven days a week for active duty Air Force members and their spouses who need funds for emergencies or for humanitarian purposes. Non-emergency appointments can be scheduled during regular office hours. Call the command post at 277-3040 for after duty hour emergencies. Assistance is normally in the form of interest-free loans or grants. The Air Force Aid Society also provides funds to support a variety of community enhancement programs that include various child-care programs as well as programs for expectant mothers and new parents.

- Career Focus provides employment and self-development workshops and assistance for military spouses, family members and civil service employees and their families. A computer resource room and extended library complement the classes and individual consultations.

- Family Life Education offers classes such as change management, effective parenting and couples' communication to assist with family and relationship issues.

- Family Readiness helps families prepare for extended temporary duty and deployment separation. FSC offers several methods for keeping in touch with loved ones, two monthly meetings of Hearts Apart, a support group and several special incentives for active members of Hearts Apart. Children are welcome to attend with a parent.

disability or in retaliation for having participated in activity protected by the various civil rights statutes. EEO also assures that individual complaints are fairly and thoroughly investigated and kept confidential.

Mediation/facilitation is available as a form of Alternate Dispute Resolution used to improve the efficiency of the Federal EEO complaint process by attempting early informal resolution of EEO complaints. Employees have 45 days from the date of the alleged incident to contact the EEO office. Employees may also contact the EEO office to utilize ADR in resolving other workplace disputes.

Legal Office

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

1 S. Rosamond Blvd.

(661) 277-4310 or DSN 527-4310

Legal assistance is offered through the Staff Judge Advocate's office, located in the Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters building. Judge advocates provide advice and assistance to all active duty and retired members of the U.S.

- Family Services is a volunteer group within the FSC. Family Services volunteers prepare sponsor packages, loan video and brochures about other bases and loan small household goods for inbound and outbound personnel. They also maintain the Airmen's Attic supported by donations of clothing and small household goods. A layette and car seat are available for E-4 and below, and those in need.

- Information and Referral provides links to agencies and resources on and off base. If you need additional help finding a service do not hesitate to call the FSC.

- Personal Financial Management provides counseling and workshops on financial needs, debt reduction, budget development, investments and the Thrift Saving Plan.

- Relocation Assistance provides pre-departure information to help you make better plans before you depart for your next duty station and helps you become familiar with your new community. Air Force Crossroads, the official community Web site of the Air Force, is located at: <http://www.afcrossroads.com>. The Standard Installation Topics Exchange System (SITES) provides up-to-date information about bases, schools and housing, as well as a chat room and information for youth and spouses. SITES can be found at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites> or on Air Force Crossroads. Relocation Assistance offers workshops to include sponsorship training, Smooth Move and Spouse Welcome. Spouses are invited to attend a spouse welcome and get a short briefing on local services plus a tour of Lancaster and Palmdale and a free lunch. The Antelope Valley Chamber of Commerce sponsors this tour. Childcare may be arranged, if requested early. Call the FSC to sign up.

- Transition Assistance Program provides Pre-Separation Counseling, monthly Department of Labor TAP seminars, individual assistance, computer and library resources, information and referral, and a variety of classes and workshops to help acquire and develop skills for a smooth transition to civilian life and work.

- Volunteer Resource offers information about opportunities to volunteer and serve. This program serves as the base central coordinating point for volunteerism.

If you need assistance and are not located near a Family Support Center please call Family Support Center Operations, HQ AFPC/DPPTF at (800) 581-9437.

Armed Forces, their family members, as well as Reserve and National Guard military members on Title 10 Status.

Notary service and powers of attorney service are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon; and on Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Walk-in legal assistance, including last wills and testaments are available every Monday, noon-1 p.m. Please note: the will questionnaire must be completed prior to appointment. Legal assistance appointments are available every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call 277-4310 and press "0" for the receptionist to make an appointment.

Assistance is also available in filing claims for loss or damage to personal property during a move. Claims briefings are held weekly. Filing a claim is by appointment only. If damage to household goods is noted on a Department of Defense Form 1840 at the time of delivery, a claim may be made any time within two years of the delivery date. For any damage discovered after delivery, a DD Form 1840R must be filed within 70 days of delivery. The Claims Office may be contacted at 277-4380.

Military Volunteer Income Tax Assistants offer tax preparation help during the tax season. They can prepare, review, provide guidance and electronically file federal and state income taxes free of charge. Appointments may be made by calling 275-ETAX.

Life Skills Center

30 Nightingale Rd.

**Life Skills Center and ADAPT (661) 277-5291
or DSN 527-5291**

Family Advocacy (661) 277-5292 or DSN 527-5292

**Drug Demand Reduction (661) 277-1354
or DSN 527-5292**

The Life Skills Flight consists of the Life Skills Center, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment (ADAPT) Program, Family Advocacy Program and Drug Demand Reduction (DDR).

The Life Skills Center offers mental health services such as command directed evaluations, individual and couples counseling, crisis intervention and overseas clearances. A psychiatrist is available for medication management for active duty members and for adult family members on a case-by-case basis. A psychiatrist is available to perform Medical Evaluation Boards.

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment program is co-located in the Life Skills Center. ADAPT provides substance abuse evaluations and outpatient substance abuse treatment.

Family Advocacy provides evaluations and supportive services for families experiencing spouse or child abuse/neglect. Family Advocacy also maintains the New Parent Support Program, which provides support and education to first time parents.

Drug Demand Reduction provides substance abuse testing, education and prevention services to prevent substance abuse.

Finally, the Life Skills Flight offers ongoing supportive classes for anger management, couples' communication, stress management and parenting classes.

Military Equal Opportunity

125 Methusa Ave.

(661) 277-4440 or DSN 527-4440

The primary objective of the Military Equal Opportunity program is to improve mission effectiveness by promoting an environment free from personal, social or institutional barriers that prevent Air Force members from rising to the highest level of responsibility. Commanders are advised on all matters of unlawful discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, color or sex, to include sexual harassment. MEO assists base personnel to improve mission effectiveness by countering the adverse effects of unlawful discrimination, sexual harassment and human relations conflicts.

Military personnel, family members and retirees may file unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment complaints with the MEO office. A referral service is available for problems outside the office's scope of responsibility. Human relations education is provided to all military or civil service personnel upon arrival to Edwards. Refresher training sessions are available to individual units and work centers with leadership's request or MEO's recommendation. Other MEO areas of responsibility include Unit Climate Assessments and "Out and Abouts."

Hometown News Release

Public Affairs

1 S. Rosamond Blvd.

(661) 277-3510 or DSN 527-3510

Newcomers are encouraged to complete a Department of Defense Form 2266, Hometown News Release Information, to share the news of their permanent change of station and assignment with friends and family in their hometowns. By simply completing the form on Page 65 and sending or delivering it to Public Affairs, a news release will be generated and sent to media outlets for possible publication in your relatives' communities.

Household Goods Shipments

20 W. Popson Ave.

(661) 277-3486/7888 or DSN 527-3486/7888

The Traffic Management Office Household Goods Section arranges for the movement of personal property and other effects for both the arrival and departure from Edwards and surrounding areas. The primary mission of the household goods element is to provide entitlement counseling to military and civilian members, quality assurance inspection of shipments and other detailed assistance that pertains to the shipping and storage of personal property.

Lodging

High Desert Inn

Bldg. 5602, Manzanita Way

(661) 275-ROOM or DSN 525-ROOM

The Edwards High Desert Inn has various lodging accommodations available to military and authorized civilian DoD and contract personnel. The Inn is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For members who have families and who have not been assigned permanent housing, there are two- and four-bedroom apartment-type quarters. There is a very limited amount of four-bedroom units. The units have cooking facilities, a queen-size bed and a twin-size bed in the bedrooms, and a couch that converts into a double bed and a chair that converts into a single bed in the living room. For families with pets, there are four designated pet units. Cost ranges from \$29 to \$48.50 per night, depending on type of authorized quarters requested.



Outside the 1+1 dormitories. Photo by Thomas Powell

HOUSING

Edwards Housing Office

402 S. Forbes Ave.

(661) 277-4506 or DSN 527-4506

Consolidated Dormitory Management Office

141 W. Popson Ave.

(661) 277-6783 or DSN 527-6783

Military family housing

The Edwards Housing Office welcomes written or telephone inquiries regarding both on- and off-base housing. For written inquiries, include member's rank and number of family members with their ages and gender and send to 95 ABW/CETH, 402 S. Forbes Ave., Edwards AFB, Calif. 93524-1800.

The floor plans represent a few of the units available. All units include ranges, refrigerators, dishwashers and garbage disposals. Connections for washers and dryers, both gas and electric, are provided.

Quarters are assigned according to grade and family size in accordance with Air Force Instruction 32-6001.

Mobile Home Park

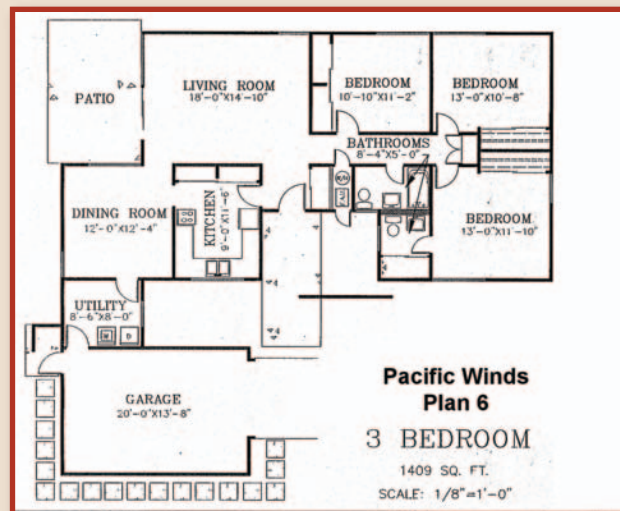
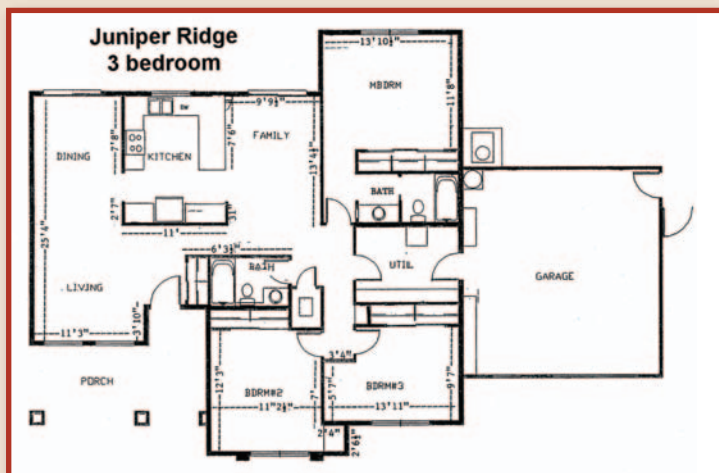
The Mobile Home Park at Edwards is in the process of being closed. Mobile homes may not be moved into the park.



Photo by John Wilson

Off base

Members assigned to Edwards may choose to reside in one of two metropolitan areas, Lancaster or Palmdale, which are 35 to 45 minutes south of the base, or in other small communities that offer affordable housing closer to the base. These areas include Boron, California City, Mojave, Rosamond and Tehachapi. Housing personnel are ready to assist customers with personalized listings of rentals and real estate as well as information regarding living in off-base communities.



Unaccompanied housing for officers

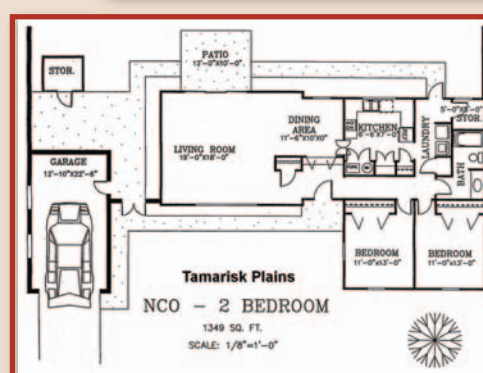
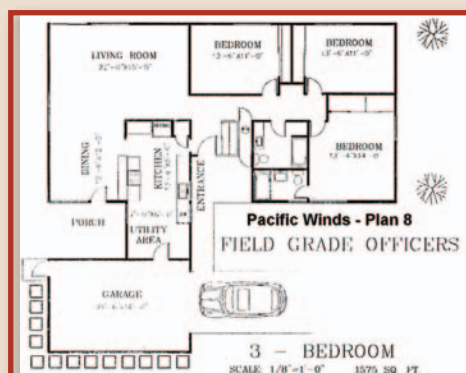
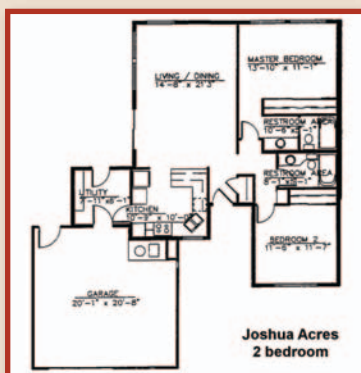
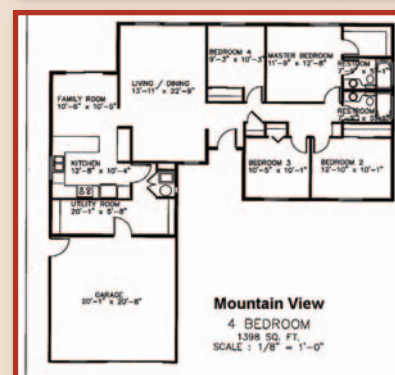
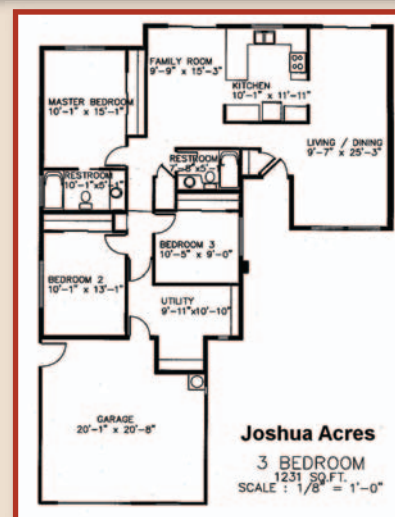
Unaccompanied officer quarters consist of 88 apartment-style units, with priority being give to key and mission essential personnel.

Unaccompanied housing for enlisted members

Unaccompanied Senior NCOs are authorized residence in one of eight apartment-style units on a space-available basis.

Unaccompanied NCOs in grades E-5 and E-6, and Senior Airmen with three years of service, may be housed in the NCO Dormitories if space is available.

Unaccompanied personnel in the ranks of Airman Basic through Senior Airmen with less than three years of service are required to live in base dormitories. Rooms are assigned based upon rank and unit. Dormitories are centrally located within walking distance of the Joshua Tree Inn Dining Facility, Oasis Community Center, Aerobic and Aquatics Center and the Fitness and Sports Center.



MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE

95th Medical Group

30 Nightingale Rd.

(661) 277-7118 or DSN 527-7118

Primary, special, preventive care services are provided. Current services include: aerospace medicine, paramedic ambulance service, dental/oral surgery, family advocacy/life skills, force health management, bioenvironmental, family practice, immunizations/allergy, laboratory, drug demand program, health and wellness services, nutritional counseling, optometry, pediatrics, pharmacy, physical therapy, physiological support and radiology.

Prevention programs focus on women's health and breast care, public health, substance abuse and a variety of topics offered through programming at the Health and Wellness Center. Medical support is also provided to the NASA Dryden and Air Force Research Laboratory communities. A TRICARE Service Center is located in the Edwards Clinic.

EDWARDS CLINIC operating hours:

- **Primary Care Clinic:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Ancillary Services (Lab, X-ray, Pharmacy):** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **Flight Medicine Clinic:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Appointments: All beneficiaries at the Edwards Clinic may be scheduled by calling the central appointments line at 277-7118 during normal duty hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The central appointment line for patients enrolled with the main clinic opens at 7:30 a.m. After-hours health care needs can be coordinated by calling (888) 762-3842. By calling this number you will reach a Registered Nurse who can advise you on the proper level of care and coordinate your needs with your Primary Care Manager.

The **Paramedic-level ambulance service** is available 24 hours a day for life-threatening situations by dialing 911. The paramedics respond to all on-base 911 calls and provide on-scene and in-transit advanced life support. The service provides emergency transportation to local community hospitals. Paramedic crews maintain Kern County, Calif., and national Paramedic rescue licenses and work under the direction of the Kern County Emergency Medical Services.

Dental Clinic

31 Nightingale Rd.

(661) 277-2872 or DSN 527-2872

Operating hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Dental Clinic provides comprehensive dental care for active duty members, including a periodic dental examination and cleaning. Although family members are not authorized routine dental care at the base clinic,

emergency treatment is available. The United Concordia Family Member Dental Plan has been established to ensure family members have access to affordable dental care through off-base providers. To enroll in the program, visit the Military Personnel Flight customer service.

Flight Surgeon's Office

Col. John P. Stapp Aerospace Medicine Facility

55 N. Wolfe Ave.

(661) 277-2575 or DSN 527-2575

Operating hours: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sick call for flyers is 7 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Flight Medicine appointments are made by calling 277-2575. The Flight Surgeon's Office provides medical care for military members and Department of Defense civilians on flying or special operational duty status, as well as their family members. The Flight Surgeon's Office also serves other active duty members, including those assigned to various flying squadrons and center staff agencies, as well as their families.

The unit conducts specialty physicals for Army, Marine and Reserve service members, as well as occupational physicals for specific career fields, and provides support for NASA operations. Additionally, the Optometry Clinic is located with Flight Medicine and is able to offer a full range of optometric services to enrolled beneficiaries. For optometry appointments call 277-3187.

Health Care

TRICARE SERVICE CENTER

30 Nightingale Rd., Room A2012

(888) TriWest

MANAGED CARE OFFICE

30 Nightingale Rd. Room A2015

(661) 277-6969/2662 or DSN 527-6969/2662

The TRICARE Service Center manages beneficiary enrollment, provides information on the TRICARE program and links family members with TRICARE health providers in the local area. Community hospitals participating in TRICARE include Antelope Valley Hospital, located approximately 35 miles from the base at 1600 W. Ave. J in Lancaster, and Lancaster Community Hospital, located approximately 40 miles from the base at 43830 10th St. W. in Lancaster.

The TRICARE Programs serve active duty and retired military personnel, their families and their survivors. TRICARE combines civilian and military medical resources. It's designed to improve timely access to health care, maintain the same high quality of care, offer more services, a full range of specialists, host a choice of providers, and control health care costs.

Because TRICARE offers options designed to fit a spectrum of lifestyle and health care needs, the program includes four health care plans: TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Extra, TRICARE Standard, and TRICARE For Life.

Edwards new medical clinic. Photo by Thomas Powell



MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT

5 Seller Ave.

(661) 277-2276/3186 or DSN 527-2276-3186

The Military Personnel Flight customer service center is the central information and referral point for personnel matters. The customer service staff provides identification cards for service members, family members and retirees; maintains personnel records; manages applications for the family members dental plan and updates the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, or DEERS. Additionally, the customer service center provides referral to the people and agencies that can assist best in numerous situations.

PETS

A maximum of three animals per household are allowed while residing on Edwards. All animals must be registered within 10 working days of arrival by presenting a current rabies certificate or scheduling vaccinations at the Edwards Veterinary Treatment Facility. An Edwards rabies and identification tag will be issued upon proper proof of immunization. Owners will confine pets at their residence or exercise them under the owner's immediate control on a leash at all times. No pets will be left unattended in motor vehicles. A limited number of animals are allowed in Desert Villa guest quarters, and dogs and cats are not allowed in the dormitories. Breeding or abandoning animals on Edwards is prohibited.

Adopt-a-Pet at Edwards Team Rescue and Kennels

615 S. Forbes Ave.

(661) 258-9525

APET is a private, nonprofit organization. Its mission is to adopt unclaimed family pets released from quarantine from the 95th Security Forces Squadron Wildlife and Animal Control Facility. APET is a one-stop resource center to Edwards for pet hotels, pet sitters, boarding, grooming and training information.

Animal Control

4976 and 4979 Baker-Nun Rd.

(661) 277-7138/7139 or DSN 527-7138/7139

The 95th Security Forces Squadron Wildlife and Animal Control Facility (95th SFS/SFOW) works with the base veterinarian clinic in registering animals, keeping current immunization records, controlling and impounding strays, nuisance and aggressive pets on base. Regulations and fines are outlined in the Edwards Air Force Base Instruction (EAFBI) 31-25, Control of Pets.

SFOW is the primary enforcement office for off-road vehicle activity. Regulations and fines are outlined in the Air Force Flight Test Center Instruction (AFFTCI) 31-28, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision. SFOW personnel also play a key role in the Edwards Fish and Game program. Regulations and fines are outlined in the AFFTCI 32-8, Management of Hunting, Fishing and Volunteer Program. If you have any questions or complaints or wish to report suspicious activity regarding wildlife or domestic pets, off-road vehicles, or hunting and fishing activities on Edwards, please contact the SFOW office.

Stables

101 Landfill Rd.

(661) 275-PONY or DSN 525-7669

The Edwards Riding Stables have 53 stalls for private boarding of up to 74 horses, complete with feed and tack storage rooms. Stables are open daily to those boarding horses. The cost to board a horse begins at \$25 per month with an \$80 deposit. These fees help maintain the stable facilities. Horse owners are responsible for feeding their horses and cleaning their stalls.

Other facilities include a clubhouse with patio and barbecue areas, two storage barns, a lighted main riding arena, a jumping arena, trail arena, two large exercise pens and four-horse and two-horse trailers for stable borders' use.

The stables sponsor horse shows, parades and desert trail rides.

Horses stabled on base at the Edwards Riding Stables must undergo a 10- to 14-day minimum quarantine and have a current Coggins Test as well as other immunizations. Call the Outdoor Recreation office at (661) 275-CAMP or DSN 525-CAMP before bringing a horse to the base.

Veterinary Treatment Facility

900 Kincheloe Ave.

(661) 275-PETS or DSN 525-PETS

The Edwards Veterinary Treatment Facility provides services for small animals, including health certificates, vaccinations and medical, surgical and laboratory procedures as mission permits. Limited services are available for horses. Emergencies involving life or limb threatening injuries will be seen during normal duty hours, depending on the availability of a veterinarian. Emergencies occurring after duty hours may be referred to a civilian veterinarian. The facility is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-noon, and 1-4:30 p.m.; clinic and surgery days change weekly. Please call for an appointment.



PHONE INFORMATION

Base Operator/Information (661) 277-1110 or DSN 527-1110

The area code for Edwards and the surrounding area, including Rosamond, Lancaster, Palmdale, Mojave, Tehachapi, Bakersfield and Gorman, is 661. Phone prefixes for Edwards include 277 and 275 for work centers, 276 for NASA Dryden, 258 for the housing areas and 823 for the Dormitories. The Defense Switched Network, or DSN, prefix is 527 for commercial 277 numbers and 525 for commercial 275 numbers. When dialing from base phones established with a 277 or 275 prefix, it is only necessary to dial 7 or 5, respectively, and the last four digits of the destination number.

POSTAL SERVICES

Military Postal Service Center Office

20 W. Popson Ave.

(661) 277-4395 or DSN 527-4395

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

U.S. Postal Service Main Post Office
1000 Kincheloe Ave.

(800) 275-8777

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

On-base postal services are handled by the Military Postal Service Center Office, with the exception of delivery to family housing areas, the maintenance of post office boxes and retail mailing services, all of which are handled by the U.S. Postal Service.

Newcomers can forward mail to the general delivery address managed by the Military PSC Office until they find permanent housing. The address is: General Delivery, PSC Box 1998, Edwards AFB, Calif. 93524.

Lobby areas for both post office and PSC boxes are open 24 hours a day.

UPS express mail services are available at Outdoor Recreation, located at 1100 Kincheloe Ave., and accessible at (661) 277-3546, or DSN 527-3546.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Muroc Joint Unified School District

17100 Foothill Ave.

North Edwards, Calif.

(760) 769-4821 or

(661) 258-4356/4178

The Edwards community boasts two elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. On-base public schools fall under the jurisdiction of California's Muroc Joint Unified School District.

Elementary schools

Kindergarten through
second grade:

Bailey Elementary

1565 Bailey Ave.

(661) 258-6432

Third through sixth grade:

Branch Elementary

1595 Bailey Ave.

(661) 258-4411, Ext. 24 or 400



Photo by Chad Bellay

Seventh through eighth grade:

Edwards Middle School

1575 Payne Ave.

(661) 258-4411, Ext. 26

A child must be 5 years of age on or before December 2 of that school year to be eligible for kindergarten, and he or she must be 6 years old on or before December 2 to be eligible for first grade.

Upon enrollment, parents must provide a birth certificate, a current or transfer report card from the previous school, the student's social security card, a current physical with a doctor's signature (or proof of the physical in the previous school's records) and an immunization record for each child. The law requires proof of polio, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis or DTP and measles immunizations.

Registration is held most weekdays 1-3 p.m. throughout the school year.

High school

Ninth through 12th grade:

Desert High School

1575 Payne Ave.

(661) 258-4411, Ext. 26

Parents are required to accompany students during registration and must provide shot records (proof of measles, polio and DTP immunizations), a withdrawal form and the last report card from the previous school. Students arriving after the school year has begun should register at the counseling office as soon as possible after arrival. Students who arrive on base prior to the beginning of the school year have an opportunity to plan their schedules. Counseling sessions begin in August.

Honors, advanced placement, college preparatory and laboratory science classes complement a wide range of extracurricular clubs and activities, from drama and yearbook to volleyball and wrestling and Junior ROTC. Spanish is the only foreign language offered. With roughly 400 students, Desert High offers sufficient opportunity for all students to become involved.

Parent organizations

Parents have the opportunity to support and advise Edwards' schools through the Parent Teacher Association and the Parents' Advisory Council. More information on joining the PTA or PAC is available through the schools.

SPONSOR PROGRAM

Newcomers to Edwards are encouraged to take advantage of the sponsor program within their respective organizations. If you have orders to Edwards and do not yet have a sponsor, call your gaining orderly room or the Military Personnel Flight at (661) 277-2276 or DSN 527-2276.

SPOUSE WELCOME

Family Support Center

550 S. Bailey Ave.

(661) 277-0723 or DSN 527-0723

The Family Support Center offers a spouse welcome forum to bring together spouses new to the base and representatives from the Muroc Unified School District, 95th Services Division, the Base Education Center, TRICARE managed health care, the Officers' Wives Club and the Enlisted Wives Club.

In conjunction with local chambers of commerce, the FSC's spouse welcome offers a tour of downtown Lancaster, Palmdale and Rosamond each month, highlighting shopping and services and providing a free lunch. Free childcare may be available during tours. Call for childcare details.

TAX ASSISTANCE

(661) 275-ETAX

The Edwards Military Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program annually provides free assistance in completing and filing federal and state income tax returns. Active duty, retired military members, Reservists and National Guard on Title 10 status and military family members are eligible. The program is coordinated through the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and involves training local volunteers through the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board.

TRANSPORTATION

There are three major commercial airports within 100 miles of Edwards. Los Angeles International, located in Inglewood off Interstate 405, one hour and 45 minutes south of Edwards (about 90 miles), is one of the world's busiest airports and traffic congestion in the vicinity is often a factor to consider.

The Bob Hope Airport, located in Burbank, is an hour-and-a-half (about 90 miles) straight shot south from the base along State Highway 14 and Interstate 5.

Ontario International Airport, located about two hours south (about 110 miles) in San Bernardino County off Interstate 15, is a less congested means of connecting to air travel. Newcomers arriving by air, rail or bus should ask for assistance from their sponsor. Late-night arrival by commercial means is not advised.

A commercial shuttle is available from the Los Angeles International Airport to Palmdale and Lancaster, approximately 80 miles, at the current rate of \$44 one way and \$73 for round-trip. However, there is no shuttle to Edwards from Palmdale and Lancaster. Reservations may be made by calling (661) 945-2529. Other commercial shuttles may be available, but can be expensive and few go to Edwards. Check with airport ground transportation for more information.

The 95th Transportation Squadron provides an on-base taxi service for official government business Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call (661) 277-2620 or DSN 527-2620.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND SMOG TEST

Pass and Registration

5 Sellers Ave. Building. 3000
Edwards AFB, CA 93524
(661) 277-7403

Auto Skills Center

200 Methusa Ave.
(661) 277-4275/2836 or
DSN 527-4275/2836

Vehicle registration decals are obtained from the 95th Security Forces Squadron, Pass and Registration Section. Vehicles, including motor scooters and motor bikes, must be registered on the installation within 10 working days of arrival.

To register a vehicle on base, the owner must present vehicle registration, a valid driver's license and military or civilian ID card, as well as proof of current insurance in accordance with Air Force Instruction 31-204, paragraph 3.2, and Air Force Flight Test Center Instruction 31.28, paragraph 2.6. If the insurance is not issued under the name of the registering individual, the actual policy is required to verify policy coverage of the registering individual.

Vehicles registered outside the state of California must have proof of a smog test before registering, as required by the Federal Clean Air Act of 1990, Section 118d. Smog tests may be accomplished at the Auto Skills Center; appointments are necessary. Cost is \$25.

WEATHER

Sun and wind, not heat, are the primary year-round characteristics of Edwards' weather. Skies above Edwards are sunny more than 350 days per year. Winds usually pick up in the afternoon from the southwest to the west and can become strong at times, particularly in the spring. Edwards' clear skies, desert climate and 2,300-foot elevation result in a 30-degree to 40-degree difference between daytime and nighttime temperatures. Mild evening temperatures and low humidity make the hot summer months surprisingly comfortable. Precipitation is rare between April and October and only accumulates approximately five inches per year. Snow flurries occasionally fall, but rarely stick to the ground. The chart below shows average temperatures and precipitation.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Average High	57	61	65	73	82	91	99	97	91	79	66	57
Average Low	31	35	39	45	52	59	66	64	57	47	36	30
Precip. (in.)	1.12	1.21	0.93	0.30	0.10	0.04	0.19	0.20	0.24	0.30	0.58	0.80

ON BASE

Winter

(December 21, 2005 – March 19, 2006)

Edwards' Basewide Holiday Party

Presented annually by the **95th Services Division** and held at the Oasis Community Center. All of the Edwards community is invited to celebrate the holiday season with entertainment, free food and beverages, crafts and coloring contests. This event is held in December.

Holiday Cookie Drive

Sponsored by the **Family Support Center** in December, several hundred cookies are baked in the homes of Team Edwards members from across the base. The cookies are packaged and given to Airmen living in the dorms.

Santa's Workshop

Sponsored by the **Family Support Center**. Each year the communities surrounding the base donate a truckload of toys to be given to children living at Edwards. This event is held in December.



Photo by Thomas Powell

Spring

(March 20 – June 20, 2006)

Miss Edwards Pageant

Sponsored by the **95th Services Division** and held at the Stripes Lounge. Categories include Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss. This event is typically held in March.

Annual Workforce Awards Banquet

Honoring the outstanding Air Force Flight Test Center officer, enlisted and civilian award winners. This event is scheduled for March 10, 2006.

Month of the Edwards' Child

During April, various events and activities are held to honor all Edwards' children.



Photo by Thomas Powell

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Sponsored by the Family Support Center. This annual event pays tribute to the numerous volunteers at Edwards and is usually held in April.

Career Expo

Sponsored by the **Family Support Center**. At this event employers accept applications and resumés from the Edwards community. This event is May 6, 2006.

Edwards' Sports Day

Sponsored by the **95th Services Division**, Sports Day aims to enhance morale and provide all of Team Edwards an opportunity to engage in sports and other physical activities. Squadrons and organizations compete in a number of events, including softball, volleyball, horseshoes and track and field. Sports Day is typically held in May.

"Concerts in the Park"

Series begins in June for the summer season. Held monthly at Andrews Park, the entire base community is invited to bring picnic dinners, lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy an evening of music performed by live bands. The free concerts are sponsored by the **95th Services Division**.

Summer

(June 21 – September 21, 2006)

Summer Bash

Sponsored by the **95th Services Division**, this is an Air Force Materiel Command program celebrated at Edwards every July 4, at Wings Field near Arnold Park. Activities include entertainment, free carnival rides, family games, bouncy castles, sports competitions and a fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day.

With the American flag emblazoned on its underbelly, the F-117 Nighthawk with tail number 782 flies past spectators at the 2005 Edwards Open House and Air Show. About 75,000 people attended the event Oct. 22 & 23. This stealth fighter, the oldest of five prototypes, was hand made before full production of the aircraft started.

Photo by Senior Airman Jet Fabara



A replica World War II Japanese Zero fighter buzzes through clouds of smoke during the 2005 Edwards Open House and Air Show. The aircraft took part in the Tora, Tora, Tora recreation of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor at the Oct. 22 & 23 event. The recreation is part of a Commemorative Air Force demonstration that features more than 60 pyrotechnic effects. Photo by Senior Airman Jet Fabara



A pumpkin carving contest is one of the many events held at the Fall Festival, sponsored by the 95th Services Division. Photo by Ray Felix

Autumn

(September 22 – December 20, 2006)

Fall Festival

Presented by the **95th Services Division** during September, the festival celebrates the autumn holidays with costumes, dance contests, live entertainment, games and free carnival rides.

Talent Extravaganza

Sponsored by the **95th Services Division** and held at Stripes Lounge. Local winners go on to the Air Force level competition. This event will be held in September.

Pancho Barnes Party

Sponsored by the Company Grade Officers Council, in honor of the memory of Pancho Barnes, record-setting aviator and local legend. The party is held at the ruins of her ranch, the "Happy Bottom Riding Club"—a desolate location made lively by efforts to bring barbecue and live music together under a desert night sky. The event benefits the Flight Test Historical Foundation, which strives to preserve the history of flight test at Edwards. This event is typically held in September.

Open House and Air Show

A basewide effort, including NASA Dryden and other base associates, to present to the general public the men, women, technology and aircraft systems that comprise the aerospace frontier at Edwards. The Air Force Flight Test Center demonstrates its mission through static and aerial displays of nearly every aircraft in the Air Force inventory. This event is typically held in October.

Attractions

Air Force Flight Test Center Museum

405 S. Rosamond Blvd.
(661) 277-8050

The museum features exhibits, displays and videos depicting the history of Edwards and the Air Force Flight Test Center, including aircraft static displays, models, biographies and aviation paraphernalia. The museum also has a gift shop with T-shirts, aviation books and souvenirs. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



Aircraft and exhibits at the Air Force Flight Test Center Museum.
Photo by John Wilson

Flightline Tour

Public Affairs Office
1 S. Rosamond Blvd.
(661) 277-3512

The current policy is to allow flightline tours to the general public and large pre-existing groups of 15 people or more. Reservations for this one-hour windshield tour is required and should be made at least three weeks in advance for pre-existing groups. Reservations for the general public should be made at <http://www.edwards.af.mil> at least seven days in advance. Tours begin at the Air Force Flight Test Center Museum. They include an introductory presentation and an orientation video. Tours are subject to mission constraints and availability.

NASA Dryden Tour

Visitor's Center
Lilly Dr., Bldg. 4825
(661) 276-3449/5247

NASA Dryden offers a 90-minute walking tour of its facilities, resources and aircraft. Tours are given by reservation only. Call for more information and tour availability.



The crew for the USA Network show "Monk" came to Edwards to film the episode "Monk and the Astronaut." As a prop for the show, the hangar was temporarily named for a fictitious base.
Photo by Christopher Ball

Motion Picture Support

Edwards' proximity to the filmmakers and studios of Hollywood make it a frequent choice of directors and production agencies for on-scene motion picture, television and music video filming. Edwards supports several major motion picture events each year, which often results in free screenings for the base population.



Special Events



Photo by Airman 1st Class Francesca Carrano

Tops In Blue

The Air Force's traveling variety show dazzles the Edwards community with lively dance, song and humor with tones of nostalgia, patriotism and service.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Francesca Carrano



Team Edwards members visit with Jay Leno, host of the Tonight Show. The majority of the Tonight Show guests in attendance Nov. 24, were members from the Armed Forces, including 42 servicemembers from Edwards. The show aired Thanksgiving Day 2004.
Photo by Senior Airman Jet Fabara

Space Shuttle Landings

Edwards continues to be an alternate emergency landing site for space shuttle flights and, with its large dry lakebed, will be a contingency site on all orbital missions during the entire life of the space program. The decision to land at Edwards is made 90 minutes prior to estimated landing time.



The Space Shuttle Discovery, aboard a modified 747 aircraft, leaves Edwards August 19, 2005, for its ferry flight back to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
Photo by Senior Airman Jet Fabara

Dining

Anthony's Pizza

Base Exchange Food Court
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-4034
Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Offers a variety of pizzas.

Baskin Robbins

Base Exchange Food Court
240 FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078, Ext. 256
Sunday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Offers ice cream desserts, frozen beverages and special-occasion ice cream cakes.

Burger King

240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-5987
Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Offers breakfast, lunch and dinner fast-food items.

Cactus Café

1610 Yeager Blvd.
(661) 275-CAFE
Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Offers a breakfast menu and daily lunch specials, grill items and sandwiches.

Charley's Steakery

Base Exchange Food Court
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078, Ext. 256
Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Offering fresh and healthy grilled subs.



Photo by Thomas Powell



Joshua Tree Inn Dining Facility

130 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-TREE

Breakfast: Monday-Friday, 5:30-7:45 a.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 6-9 a.m.

Lunch: Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dinner: Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 4-7 p.m.

Midnight meal: Nightly, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.

In-Flight Kitchen: 24 hours daily, (661) 275-3776

Family Nights: Sunday, 4-7 p.m., family members of enlisted personnel in pay grades E-1 through E-4 are exempt from paying the surcharge.

Back-to-back winners of the AFMC Gold Plate award for 2002 and 2003, and winner of the 2002 Air Force Hennessy award, the Joshua Tree Inn dining facility provides full food service to all military personnel and authorized guests. Enlisted personnel and officers receiving Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) will be assessed the proportional surcharge, based on the subtotal of entrees selected. Low calorie/healthy choice entrees are offered during all meal periods.

Club Muroc

275 Manzanita Way
(661) 275-CLUB

Lunch: Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dinner: Tuesday-Thursday, 5:30-8 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, 5:30-9 p.m.

Club Muroc is a consolidated club with an officers' lounge and an enlisted lounge, Pancho's and Fogleman's respectively, a dining room, ballroom and poolside lanais. Banquet and catering services are available and reservations may be made by calling or visiting the catering office. Social hour is offered at the club on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

International Family Night dining is offered on Wednesdays.

A check-cashing service is available to

club members Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Membership information is available at the club office or by calling 275-PLUS.



Photo by Thomas Powell



Photo by Thomas Powell

Mary's Place

Bldg. 1600
(661) 258-5215
Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.
Offers breakfast and lunch menus.

NASA Flightline Eatery

Includes: Anthony's Pizza, Robin Hood and American Eatery
(Located adjacent to the NASA Visitor's Center)
Bldg. 4825
(661) 276-3191
Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-2 p.m.
Offers breakfast and lunch menus, salads, sandwiches and pizza.

Oasis Pizza & Deli

(Located in the Oasis Community Center)
205 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-DELI
Lunch: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Dinner: Saturday-Thursday, 4-9 p.m. Friday, 4-10 p.m.
Offers deli-style sandwiches, pizza, salads and daily lunch specials.

Pizza Hut Express

1100 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 258-4907
Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Offers pizza delivery, carry out or dine in.

Popeye's

Base Exchange Food Court
240 FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078, Ext. 257
Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Offers fast-food chicken meals with an assortment of side dishes.

Robin Hood Sandwich Shoppe and Deli

Base Exchange Food Court
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-4034
Monday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Offers a variety of submarine sandwiches and salads.

Rocket Room

Air Force Research Lab
2 Pollux Dr.
(661) 275-5589
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Offers breakfast and lunch menus, hot entrees, grill items and sandwiches.



Photo by Thomas Powell



Photo by Thomas Powell

Sandbagger Grill

(Located at the Muroc Lake Golf Course)
111 Crest Dr.
(661) 275-SAND
Sunday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Offers breakfast and lunch menus, hot entrees, grill items, sandwiches and salads.

South Base Snack Bar

Birk Flight Test Facility
120 E. Jones Rd.
(661) 275-0213
Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-2 p.m.
Offers a breakfast menu and daily lunch specials, grill items and sandwiches.

Strikezone Snack Bar

(Located at the High Desert Lanes Bowling Center)
205 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 275-ZONE
Sunday, 2-7 p.m.
Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday, 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Saturday, 2-10 p.m.
Offers daily lunch specials, grill items, hot wings, and sandwiches.

Subway

Offers a variety of sandwiches and salads at two locations.
• 1610 Yeager Blvd., inside the Cactus Café, (661) 258-7623
Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
• 1100 Kincheloe Ave., Bldg. 7210, (661) 258-9856
Sunday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Taco Bell

Base Exchange Food Court
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078, Ext. 257
Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Offers Mexican fast-food items.

Thai Garden

W. FitzGerald Blvd., near the Base Exchange
(661) 258-0186
Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Offers a variety of Thai food.

Xtreeme Frank's Franks

Base Exchange Food Court
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078, Ext. 227
Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Offering a variety of hotdogs.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

125 Methusa Ave.

(661) 277-6071

<https://centernet.edwards.af.mil/hrd>

Human Resources Development is the focal point for the education and training of all Department of Defense personnel at Edwards. The HRD staff works with commanders, managers, supervisors, organizational training managers and individuals to optimize training and education opportunities.

Education Office

125 Methusa Ave.

(661) 277-2713

The Education Office provides a variety of education programs offering associate through master's degrees, education guidance, counseling services, military tuition assistance and the civilian Academic Degree and Certificate Training program.

Colleges

Six colleges have offices on base and offer classes and degree programs to the Edwards community. Graduate institutions include California State University Northridge and Webster University. Bachelor's degree institutions include Chapman University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Southern Illinois University. Cerro Coso Community College offers associate degrees and courses that transfer to both California State University and the University of California. Disciplines offered include business administration, social science, applied math, computer science, psychology, social science, criminal justice, computer information systems, professional aeronautics, technical management, aviation maintenance management, aeronautical science, industrial technology, mechanical and electrical engineering, human resource management and computer resources and information management. Call the Education Office at 277-2713 for a brochure with extended information on schools and degrees.

Professional Military Education

The Education Office staff works with commanders, First Sergeants and Unit Training Managers to arrange for military members and eligible civil service employees to attend the NCO Academy, Senior NCO Academy, Air and Space Basic Course, Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College. Recruiting for on-base seminars in the latter two schools is conducted annually starting in May and June, respectively.

Training Office

125 Methusa Ave.

(661) 277-6073

The Training Office provides services to enable Edwards military and civilian members to obtain job-specific and mission-related training, and is the focal point for the Acquisition Professional Development Program. The Training Office staff assists management in assessing needs, creating and maintaining Individual Development Plans, and determining optimum delivery methods.



LIBRARY AND CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Main Library

5 W. Yeager Blvd.

(661) 275-BOOK

Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.;

Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.;

Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Children's Library

1100 Kincheloe Ave.

(661) 275-READ

Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.;

Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.;

Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

The base library stocks an assortment of learning materials, including books, periodicals, videotapes, cassettes, books on CD, books on tape, DVDs and music CDs. The online Public Catalog (Web Cat) is available for all library materials searches. Computers with Internet access, typewriters, copy and fax machines are accessible to the public for personal use at the Main Library. The library also offers Inter-Library Loan services for books not available locally. The Library Web site has various resources, including electronic and reference materials at <http://www.edwardslibrary.org>.

The Children's Library has books, electronic games, children's videos, books and tapes, DVDs and periodicals available for checkout. There are computer stations available for Internet and Web Cat use. The library has story time on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. for preschool and school age children. The Children's Library also provides a Summer Reading Program as well as other children's programs such as Holiday parties, database awareness programs and school visits for children of most ages. Call the library for exact times, dates and locations or check the Web site <http://www.edwardslibrary.org> then choose the Calendar link.



Photo by John Wilson

EMERGENCY SERVICES

See Page 24

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

See Page 25

HELPING RESOURCES

See Pages 26 and 27

LODGING

See Page 28

MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT

See Page 31

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Civil Engineer Readiness Unit
225 Rosamond Blvd.
(661) 277-4433

Earthquakes are the primary type of natural disaster most likely to occur at Edwards. Despite being located between the first and third largest fault lines in California, the San Andreas and the Garlock respectively, the base has no historical record of ever sustaining damage due to an earthquake. Occasionally during the spring rainy season, the base may be subject to flash flooding. Both earthquakes and flash flooding give little or no warning and can compromise the well being of the community, the ability to operate and even the structural integrity of homes and buildings. Strong winds are also common and have been known to cause local damage.

The Civil Engineer Readiness Unit suggests the following steps be taken to prepare for a major earthquake:

Develop a family plan

- Decide where your family can reunite if separated.
- Be familiar with the safe spots in each room so that you can seek protection under sturdy tables and desks or against walls. Avoid danger spots such as near windows, mirrors, hanging objects and tall, unsecured furniture.
- Know where the gas, water and electricity turnoff sites are and how to shut them off.
- Secure water heaters and appliances.
- Maintain a three-day emergency food and water supply. Create a survival kit, including a flashlight, portable battery-operated radio, extra batteries, prescription medicine, first aid supplies, clothing and sanitation needs. A small kit should also be placed in each vehicle.
- Keep current on first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation skills.

After the earthquake

- Check yourself and those around you for injuries. Don't move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger.
- Check utility leaks and broken electrical and sewage lines. Survey your house for cracks and signs of damage.
- Check water and food supplies. Remember emergency water can be found in water heaters, melted ice cubes, the toilet tank and canned vegetables.
- Use a portable radio for instructions and news reports.
- Do not drive your car unless necessary. Roads need to be clear for emergency vehicles. The secret to success in surviving a natural disaster is the ability to plan. The Civil Engineering Readiness Unit provides earthquake information to the base populace upon request.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

INFORMATION

Straight Talk Center and Rumor Control, available by calling (661) 277-3510, are managed by Public Affairs and provide the facts concerning rumors or incidents happening on base and within the Air Force.

Family Services, located inside the Family Support Center at 550 S. Bailey Ave., offers a variety of information and literature concerning family matters, what to expect when moving to another base, transition assistance and the job search upon separating from the service.

Oasis Community Center, located at 205 Popson Ave., provides a full spectrum of brochures highlighting activities and attractions off base.

Marquees, or electronic bulletin boards, are operated by the 95th Services Marketing Division and are located at the North, South and West gates, as well as on FitzGerald Blvd. The marquees collectively provide community announcements and information in routine or emergency situations. For details on how to submit information for posting on base marquees, call (661) 277-4240.

MEDIA REFERRAL

Public Affairs Office
1 S. Rosamond Blvd.
(661) 277-3511

Members of the media should be immediately referred to Public Affairs without comment in order to ensure media receive prompt assistance and that the base speaks with one voice.

PRINT

Desert Wings, a product of the Public Affairs Office, 1 S. Rosamond Blvd., serves as the Edwards community newspaper and is delivered throughout main base and the housing areas every Friday morning at no charge. Community members may suggest news leads and submit stories and items of interest through their unit public affairs representative, by contacting the **Desert Wings** staff via email at 95abw.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil, or by calling (661) 277-2345. The deadline for all submissions to the **Desert Wings** is noon the Friday before the desired publication date.

Dryden X-Press, a product of NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, is a regular publication that serves to inform employees, media, the general public and retirees about the people and projects of Dryden.

Report to Stakeholders, a product of Edwards Environmental Management, is a monthly publication designed to inform the general public about all facets of the base's environmental stewardship.

RADIO

Reception varies widely on base and in the surrounding communities. These are some of the stations that can be heard on base.

FM

88.1	KCRY	Mojave National Public Radio
88.9	KTLW	Lancaster Religious-Español
93.5	KLKX	Palmdale Classic Rock
93.9	KZLA	Los Angeles Country
94.7	KTWV	Los Angeles Smooth Jazz
95.5	KLOS	Los Angeles Rock
97.7	KIIS	Lancaster Contemporary Hits
98.7	KYSR	Burbank Hot Adult Contemporary
99.1	KGGI	San Bernardino Urban Contemporary
100.3	KKBT	Los Angeles R & B/Hip-Hop
103.1	KTPI	Tehachapi Country
104.3	KBIG	Los Angeles Adult Contemporary
105.5	KOSS	Rosamond Adult Contemporary
106.3	KGMX	Palmdale Adult Contemporary
106.9	KCEL	California City Oldies

AM

610	KAVL	Lancaster Sports
640	KFI	Los Angeles Talk
710	KSPN	Los Angeles Sports
980	KFWB	Los Angeles News
1070	KNX	Los Angeles News
1110	KDIS	Pasadena Children's (Radio Disney)
1150	KXTA	Los Angeles Sports
1340	KTPI	Mojave Country
1380	KWJL	Lancaster Nostalgia
1470	KUTY	Palmdale News/Talk-Español
1540	KMPC	Los Angeles Sports

WORLD WIDE WEB

- **Edwards Air Force Base public Web site** is accessible to the general public via the Internet at <http://www.edwards.af.mil>.
- **Centernet** is an Intranet accessible to only ".mil" and ".gov" users at <http://centernet.edwards.af.mil>.
- **Base Bulletin**, a product of the 95th Communications Group, is accessible via Centernet and features daily Air Force Flight Test Center notices, duty and community briefs, as well as classifieds.

TELEVISION

Adelphia Cable
Palmdale, Calif.
(888) 683-1000

Cable outlets offer all major Los Angeles television broadcast channels as well as major cable channels. The cable system serving the base is owned and operated by Adelphia Cable in Palmdale, and offers pay TV programming, including HBO, Cinemax, The Disney Channel and Showtime. Pay-per-view programming is also available.

Channel 6 is the base Commander's Access Channel. It is included in the cable TV basic package for base residents and provides 24-hour mission-related notices, community and duty briefs, as well as video programming including Air Force TV News, the Pentagon Channel and local historical videos. Instructional information is also provided in emergency situations. While informational slides are showing, Channel 6 also broadcasts Edwards Headline News and Air Force Radio News.

PETS

See Page 31

PHONE INFORMATION

See Page 32

POSTAL SERVICES

See Page 32

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

There are many private organizations at Edwards that are self-supporting and raise funds to enhance the quality of life for many Team Edwards members. For a complete listing of these organizations, call 277-3433.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

See Page 32

ADELPHIA CABLE

Classic Cable Channel Line-up

02 CBS	KCBS Los Angeles	40 CNN	Cable News Network
03 CAL	Adelphia Channel	41 HLN	Headline News
04 NBC	KNBC Los Angeles	42 FNC	Fox News Channel
05 WB	KTLA Los Angeles	43 DISC	Discovery Channel
06 EAFB	Commander's Access Channel (Edwards only)	44 NCEO	National Geographic
07 ABC	KABC Los Angeles	45 CNBC	Consumer/Business News
08 PBS	KCET Los Angeles	46 MSNBC	All News Network
09 IND	KCAL Los Angeles	47 ESPN2	24 Hour Sports-2
10 TWC	The Weather Channel	48 ESPN	24 Hour Sports
11 FOX	KTTV Los Angeles	49 FSN	Fox Sport Net
12 QVC	Quality, Value, Convenience Shopping	50 FSN2	Fox Sport Net 2
13 UPN	KCOP Los Angeles	51 SPIKE	Spike TV
14 KHIZ	KHIZ Barstow	52 SCI-FI	Sci-Fi Channel
15 HSN	Home Shopping Network	53 USA	USA Network
16 TBS	Turner Broadcasting System	54 TNT	Turner Network Television
17 PBS	KLCS Los Angeles	55 AMC	American Movie Classics
18 IND	KSCI Long Beach	56 HGTV	Home & Garden Television
19 TBN	KTBN Santa Ana	57 A&E	A&E
20 TELE	KVEA Corona	58 LIFE	Lifetime Television
21 UNIV	KMEX Los Angeles	59 FOOD	Food Network
22 IND	KWHY Los Angeles	60 AP	Animal Planet
23 IND	KJLA Los Angeles	61 ABCF	ABC Family Channel
24 IND	KRCA Riverside	62 TDC	The Disney Channel
25 TFT	KFTR Ontario	63 NICK	Nickelodeon
26 PAX	KPXN San Bernardino	64 TOON	The Cartoon Network
27 PAL	Palmdale City	65 MTV	Music Television
28 LAN	Lancaster City	66 BET	Black Entertainment Television
29 IND	KVMD San Bernardino	67 VH1	Video Hits One
30 CSPAN	House of Representatives	68 COM	Comedy Central
31 CSPAN2	Senate	69 E!	Entertainment Television
32 WB	WGN Chicago	70 GALA	Galavision
33 IND	KXLA Los Angeles	71 BRVO	Bravo
34 IND	KAZA Los Angeles	72 HMRK	Hallmark Channel
35 TVGC	TV Guide Channel	73 TVL	TV Land
36 Leased	Leased Access	74 OXGN	Oxygen
37 Court	Court TV	75 HIST	History Channel
38 IND	KDOC 56 Anaheim	76 TMC	Turner Classic Movies
39 TLC	The Learning Channel	77 FX	FX Network
		78 CMT	Country Music Television
		96 TRVL	The Travel Channel
		99 KBEH	KBEH-63 Los Angeles

Recreation

Services programs are a critical part of the Air Force readiness equation. These programs contribute to readiness and productivity by promoting fitness, esprit de corps, and quality of life for Air Force people. Services special mission of providing morale, welfare and recreation programs on the installation ensures the mental and physical well-being of Air Force members, their families and civilians. These programs include fitness and sports, libraries, community centers, parks, child development and youth activities, pools, bowling, clubs, golf and a variety of food and beverage operations. A portion of the profits earned through use fees and charges for Services programs are returned to the community by way of basewide special events such as Summer Bash, Fall Festival, Holiday Party, Concerts in the Park and many others held throughout the year. Services also returns profits to the community by providing funds for units parties and picnics and limited support for retirements, memorials, awards ceremonies and change of command ceremonies. Services provides community support to some non-Services programs such as monitoring and providing oversight to the Private Organization Program and unit fund-raising activities on the installation. Services programs reach out and support every individual on the installation in some manner and are an integral part of the Air Force mission. For more information visit www.edwardsservices.com



Photo by Thomas Powell

Aero Club

**South Base, Bldg. 320
(661) 275-AERO**

The Aero Club offers flight and ground instruction toward earning a private pilot's license, commercial license, air transport pilot's license, flight instructor's license, flight instructor's instrument license and instrument rating. Aircraft rentals are available to all members, as well as FAA written testing at our Lasergrade testing center. The club has virtually exclusive use of the South Base runway for easy access to clear blue California skies. Since all club aircraft are registered with the Air Force, they are authorized to land at nearly all U.S. military bases and can be used for temporary duty travel. The club participates in fly-ins and a variety of other aviation-related activities.

Arts & Crafts Center

**200 Methusa Rd.
(661) 275-ARTS**

The Arts & Crafts Center helps to improve and enhance hobby skills for members of the Edwards community. Arts & Crafts resale, woodworking, ceramics, pottery, instructional classes and picture framing are some of the things offered at the Arts & Crafts Center. The staff members are happy to offer assistance and guidance with your hobbies. Annual events include the annual Car Show & Craft Fair, which is held in May, and the AFMC Fine Art Gallery, which is held in September.

Auto Hobby

**200 Methusa Rd.
(661) 275-AUTO**

The Auto Hobby Shop offers equipment, tools, supplies and working space for self-help maintenance and repair to automobiles and other vehicles. More than 10 stalls are available for major and minor auto repairs as well as all the standard equipment necessary for auto repair work. Long pants are required in the work area and children are not permitted access for safety reasons. Services offered at the center include brake drum and rotor turning, computerized wheel balancing and air conditioning maintenance. California smog testing and repair is also available.

Car Wash

FitzGerald Blvd. (near the Car Care Center)

The Car Wash has three do-it-yourself, high-pressure wash bays for \$1.50 for five minutes, additional quarters are required for extended time. It also has one automatic bay for \$5, and four vacuum stations, cost is \$1 each for five minutes. A change machine is located at the front of the facility. For equipment failure, please call (661) 275-2886.

FamCamp

**Coliseum Dr. and Lathrop St.
(661) 275-CAMP**

FamCamp features 25 full hookup slots for recreational vehicles, as well as shower and restroom facilities. Thirty-six overflow slots without hook-ups are also available. Payments for use of the camp are made at FamCamp or Outdoor Recreation.

High Desert Lanes Bowling Center

**205 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 275-BOWL**

High Desert Lanes Bowling Center is a 20-lane facility equipped with pin spotters with automatic scoring. Bowling programs, such as glow-in-the-dark bowling, youth leagues, daily tournament competition and open bowling are available. Youth birthday packages are available to include a teen package. Arrangements may also be made to hold bowling parties at the center. The Strikezone Snack Bar (275-ZONE) provides quick and convenient dining, and the pro shop offers balls, shoes and ball measuring and drilling, as well as special orders and bowling instruction for all ages.

Information, Tickets and Tours

**1100 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 275-TRIP**

Information, Tickets and Tours provides discounted tickets for cultural attractions in addition to arranging dozens of tours each year in and around southern California. Tickets for popular Los Angeles and San Diego area attractions include Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm, Sea World and Six Flags Magic Mountain. Park guides are also available as well as staff assistance in planning itineraries for exploring scenic and historic sites abundant in the Antelope Valley. Information, Tickets & Tours also offers hotel, cruise and vacation packages and group cruises and tours at a discount throughout the year.

Muroc Lake Golf Course

111 Crest Dr.
(661) 274-PUTT

Edwards Muroc Lake Golf Course offers a championship 185-acre, 18-hole, par-72 golf course. The facility includes a pro shop with the latest equipment, a driving range, and chipping, pitching and putting practice greens. Base intramural league matches, holiday and monthly tournaments and an active men's golf association are available for interested players. The club is a part of the Southern California Golf Association, which provides handicapping service. The on-site Sandbagger Grill provides short-order breakfast and lunch.

N and N Travel

20 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 277-3160

N and N Travel provides arrangements for official travel only. Members traveling on official orders, in temporary duty or permanent change of station status, can arrange air, car and hotel reservations.



Photo by Thomas Powell

Oasis Aquatic and Aerobic Center

207 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-SWIM
(661) 275-BFIT

The Oasis pool is an indoor Olympic-size pool open throughout the year to all Edwards personnel and their families, and is staffed by qualified lifeguards at all times. Admission is free to all pools; there is a charge for instructional classes. The center offers American Red Cross lifeguard classes, water safety instruction, swimming lessons for all levels, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, as well as water aerobics classes. The base has two outdoor pools open seasonally: the Club Muroc pool, located at 275 Manzanita Way, open Memorial Day through Labor Day;

and the Sonic Splash pool, located at 24 Lathrop Dr., also open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Free aerobics classes are offered to all Edwards' personnel Monday-Saturday. Classes include Cardio Kick Box, Step Aerobics, Total Body Conditioning, Yoga, Pilates and Spinning. A new schedule is provided monthly.

Oasis Community Center

205 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-CNTR

The Oasis Community Center features a variety of leisure-time activities and programs for the base community. The facility offers a game room with pool and ping-pong tables, foosball and video games; lounge areas and separate conference rooms that have the latest audio and video capabilities and computer access; and Stripes Lounge has a state-of-the-art music and video entertainment system. The center sponsors tournaments, talent shows and educational classes, and coordinates all basewide special events such as the NBA Entertainment League Basketball game, Summer Splash 4th of July celebration, Fall Festival, Tree Lighting ceremony and the Holiday Party.

Outdoor Recreation

1100 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 275-CAMP

Outdoor Recreation offers a variety of information and outings for those looking for excitement outdoors. Programming includes anything from ocean to mountain, from sea kayaking and white water rafting to rock climbing and snow skiing. Custom trips such as backwoods nature hikes are also available. Outdoor Recreation also provides a complete line of rental equipment to include bouncy castles, snow cone machines, tents, sleeping bags, skiing and snowboarding equipment, campers, trailers and more.

Parks

Arnold Park, located at the end of Coliseum Drive, features playground equipment, covered picnic areas, a stage and restrooms. The park often hosts community gatherings in the spring and summer months and is available for rent through Outdoor Recreation.

Branch Memorial Park, located near South Base off Lancaster Blvd.,

features picnic areas, as well as Branch Pond. Branch Pond is open for fishing to individuals with valid base fishing licenses. The park is available for rental through Outdoor Recreation at 275-CAMP.

Riding stables

See "Stables" on Page 31.



Photo by Senior Airman Mark Woodbury

Rod and Gun Activity

210 Adams Way
(661) 275-TRAP

The Rod and Gun Activity, located adjacent to the small arms range south of Rosamond Blvd., offers outdoor sporting fun including archery, trap, skeet and sporting clays, rifle, pistol and paintball. Competitive shooting and social events are held regularly and the facility can be reserved for group functions such as paintball tournaments. Base hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased year round.

Skate Park

Coliseum Dr. (near Wings Field)
(661) 275-CAMP

Open to youth and adults, the skate park offers facilities for skateboard and roller skate use only. The rules are posted at the park, and hours vary depending on the season. All park users are required to wear appropriate safety gear.

Stripes Lounge

205 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-CLUB

Stripes Lounge, located within the Oasis Community Center, offers evening and late night entertainment, dancing and socializing. The lounge is wired with a state-of-the-art audio and video entertainment system. Karaoke and dance contests, pool tournaments and movie nights are held in Stripes Lounge. It is also the location for performances and events such as the Talent Extravaganza and the annual base-wide Holiday Party.

SHOPPING & SERVICES

Air Force Flight Test Center Museum Gift Shop

See "Air Force Flight Test Center Museum," Page 36.

Alterations

Base Exchange
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-9357
Closed on Sunday
Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



Photo by Thomas Powell

Banking

Armed Forces Bank
Base Exchange
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-0183
Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Armed Forces Bank specializes in military banking and has served active duty, retirees and civilians since 1907. Customers can bank worldwide by phone, Internet, mail and ATM. In addition, the bank has a 24-hour account information line and a call center with representatives available 24 hours a day to assist customers. Services offered include free checking, classic checking, interest-bearing checking, savings accounts, loans and certificates of deposit.

Edwards Federal Credit Union

10 South Muroc Dr.
(661) 258-4407
44288 N. 10th St. West
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 945-6626
(877) 256-3300, Toll-Free
<http://www.edwardsfcu.org>

Edwards Federal Credit Union offers members a full range of financial services including share draft (checking) accounts, competitive savings plans, audio response services, online banking and bill pay services, Visa Credit Cards, low rate loans for mortgages, automobiles, mobile homes, recreational vehicles, emergencies, household furniture and more. Membership at Edwards FCU is open to all who live, work, worship or attend

school in the Antelope Valley Community. For more information, visit the Edwards FCU Web site at <http://www.edwardsfcu.org>.

ATMs

Edwards FCU provides ATM access to members via the Armed Forces Financial Network, CO-OP Network, and Star, Visa, Plus, Discover and American Express networks. Four of the Credit Union's 10 ATMs are located on base: at the Edwards Main Office, 10 South Muroc Dr.; in the Commissary parking lot at 390 W. FitzGerald Blvd.; in the Family Fitness Center, Bldg. 7210; and in the Consolidated Support Facility, Bldg. 3000, at 5 Seller Ave.

Barbershops

Troop Store
20 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 277-4297
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday closed.



Photo by Senior Airman Mark Woodbury

Base Exchange
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 277-2946
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday closed.

The barbershops are operated by the Army and Air Force Exchange.

Base Exchange

240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078
Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

The 73,000-square-foot Base Exchange complex is conveniently located near the family housing area. Departments include clothing for men, women and children, as well as cosmetics and toiletries, office and stationery supplies, shoes, luggage, jewelry, giftware, housewares, electronics, hardware and appliances. The complex also contains military clothing sales, the Armed Forces Bank, a

food court, beauty and barbershops, a same-day optical shop, a florist and a General Nutritional Center. For food court information, see "Dining," Pages 38-39.

Beauty shop

Base Exchange
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-5371
Closed on Sunday
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Beauty Shop offers men, women and children hair-cutting and styling services. A variety of hair care products are also available.

Car Care Center and Gas Station

Lancaster and FitzGerald Bldgs.
(661) 258-5091
Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Car Care Center and Gas Station are centrally located between main base and the housing areas. The center offers retail and automotive services and gasoline service islands that operate 24 hours a day with use of credit cards. Cash and checks can also be used during manned operating hours.

Cellular Phone Service/Products

Paradigm Cellular
Base Exchange
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-0644
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Class Six

1100 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 258-0709
Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-12:30 a.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 7 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

Class Six, located in the Shopette, offers a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for sale. Alcoholic beverages will only be sold to those of legal drinking age.

Commissary

312 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 277-4589, Ext. 3001
Monday, noon-6 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Located next to the Base Exchange, the Commissary offers all the conveniences of a mid-sized modern supermarket. The Commissary is open seven days a week, and closed on the following holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Dry Cleaners

Carousel Cleaners

7211 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 258-4606
Closed Sunday
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Enterprise

(Inside the Car Care Center)

Bldg. 2110
(661) 258-1586
Closed Sunday
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon.
Offering car rentals.

Flower Shop

Base Exchange
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-5084
Closed Sunday
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Flower Shop offers a variety of flower and balloon arrangements and bouquets, and delivery to almost anywhere in the United States.

General Nutrition Center (GNC)

Base Exchange
240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1923
Closed Sunday
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.



Photo by Thomas Powell

Laundromat

1100 Kincheloe Ave.

Daily, 4:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Coin-operated, large washers and dryers are available for use.

Military Clothing Sales

Base Exchange

240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.

(661) 277-8136

Closed Sunday

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Military Clothing Sales carries a full line of Air Force uniforms and miscellaneous items for Army and Marine service members.



Photo by Thomas Powell

Muroc Lake Golf Course Pro Shop

111 Crest Dr.

(661) 275-PUTT

Opens at 6:30 a.m. during summer months and 7 a.m. during winter months, closes at sunset.

Edwards Muroc Lake Golf Course offers a championship 185-acre, 18-hole, par-72 golf course. The facility includes a pro shop with the latest equipment, a driving range, and chipping, pitching and putting practice greens. Base intramural league matches, holiday and monthly tournaments and an active men's golf association are available for interested players. The club is a part of the Southern California Golf Association, which provides handicapping service. The on-site Sandbagger Grill provides short-order breakfast and lunch.



Photo by Thomas Powell

Optical Shop

Base Exchange

240 W. FitzGerald Blvd.

(661) 258-4541

Closed Sunday

Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

The optical shop fills prescription glasses and contact lens orders, and custom fits frames for existing lenses. Sunglasses and eyewear accessories are also available.

Shoppette

1100 Kincheloe Ave.

(661) 258-0709

Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

Saturday-Sunday, 7 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

Located at the center of the family housing area, the Shoppette offers a movie rental section and convenience shopping with extended hours.

Thrift Store

Bldg. 7211, on Kincheloe Ave.

(661) 277-4294

Wednesday and Friday,
10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Thursday, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

The volunteer-operated and managed Thrift Store allows community members to purchase and consign for items such as clothing, housewares, furniture and electronics.

Troop Store

20 W. Popson Ave.

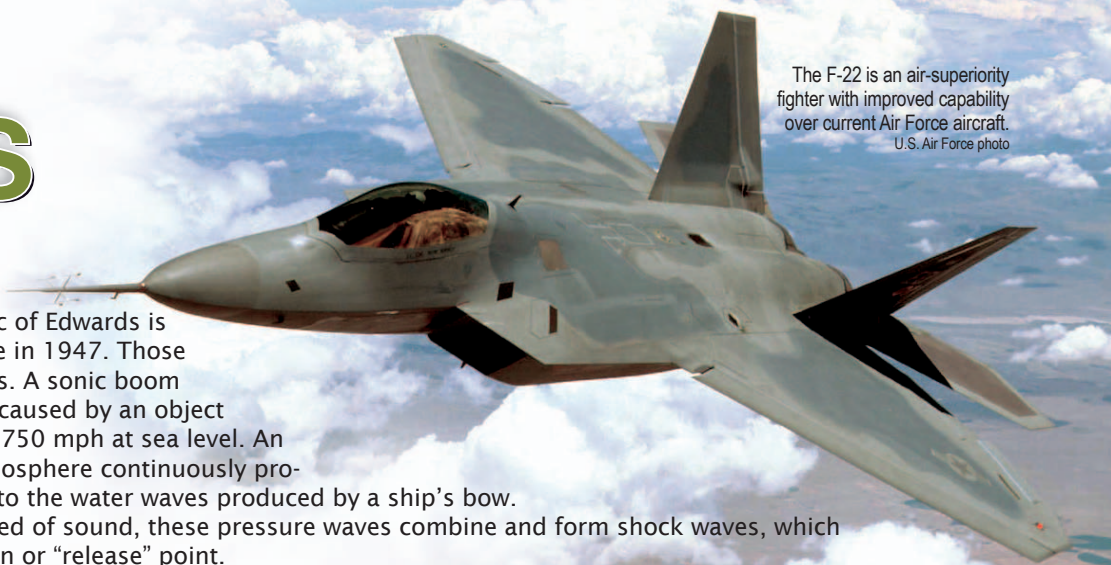
(661) 258-4797

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Located within walking distance of base dormitories, the Troop Store offers a limited video rental section and convenience shopping for basic food items and toiletries.

SONIC BOOMS

The F-22 is an air-superiority fighter with improved capability over current Air Force aircraft.
U.S. Air Force photo



A distinguishing characteristic of Edwards is the large “booms” first heard here in 1947. Those booms are known as sonic booms. A sonic boom sounds similar to thunder and is caused by an object moving faster than sound; about 750 mph at sea level. An aircraft traveling through the atmosphere continuously produces air pressure waves similar to the water waves produced by a ship’s bow. When an aircraft exceeds the speed of sound, these pressure waves combine and form shock waves, which travel forward from the generation or “release” point.

As an aircraft flies at supersonic speeds, it is continually generating shock waves, dropping sonic booms along its flight path, similar to someone dropping objects from a moving vehicle. The sound heard on the ground as a sonic boom is the sudden onset and release of pressure after the build up by the shock wave or “peak overpressure.” Duration of a sonic boom is brief and is less than a second—100 milliseconds—for most fighter-sized aircraft.

SPORTS AND FITNESS



Photo by Thomas Powell

Family Fitness Center

1100 Kincheloe Ave.

(661) 275-GYM2

Monday-Friday, 4:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Closed on holidays

The Fitness and Sports Center features the latest in equipment and facilities for one-stop training including free weights and cardio and Hammer Strength equipment, as well as personal trainers (contact Fitness Center for prices). The facility features saunas in the men’s and women’s locker rooms, two racquetball courts, an outside track, jogging and biking trails, as well as a number of mountain bikes for check-out at no cost. The service counter provides equipment check-out and a towel service. Massage therapy is also available for a fee by appointment only. The Family Fitness Center, centrally located in the housing area, offers lifecycles, treadmills, free weights and Cybex equipment for convenient workouts. The facilities also offer tae kwon do classes, please call for more information.

Health and Wellness Center

208 W. Popson Ave.

(661) 275-HAWC

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Closed Saturday-Sunday

The Health and Wellness Center offers numerous programs aimed at preventative health and wellness such as: cholesterol screening, nutritional and behavioral education, tobacco cessation classes, exercise prescription classes, prenatal nutrition and exercise classes, cancer prevention classes, and cooking demonstrations/food label interpretation. HAWC services are free for active duty, family members, DoD civilians and contractors. For more information, call 275-HAWC.

Fitness and Sports Center

210 W. Popson Ave.

(661) 275-GYM1

Monday-Friday, 5 a.m.-11 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

THEATER

Corner of Yeager Blvd. and S. Muroc Dr. (661) 275-SHOW

The 932-seat motion picture theater provides Edwards' military personnel and their families mainstream movies, slightly delayed from initial release, at an affordable rate for the whole family. Evening features start at 7 p.m. Check the movie schedule that is printed each week in the base newspaper, *Desert Wings*, or call the theater to hear a prerecorded movie schedule. The theater may also be used for large community gatherings and commander's calls.

YOUTH

Youth Activities Center

24 Lathrop Dr.
(661) 275-KIDS

The Youth Activities Center is the focal point for all youth activities at Edwards. A wide range of supervised and organized activities is available to youth ages 5-18. The center offers an array of youth, preteen and teen programs including dances, holiday and family events, picnics and trips. Professional instruction is available through the center for ballet, tap, gymnastics and karate. The center relies on both youth and parents to take an active role in shaping programs. School-age care is available for children ages 5-12 before and after school. The youth center provides transportation to and from the schools for this program.

Youth Sports

The Youth Sports Program is facilitated through the Youth Activities Center and offers children a chance to compete, gaining instruction and confidence in a number of sports including flag football, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer.

Teen Center

1320 Payne St.
(661) 275-TEEN
Closed on Sunday
Monday-Thursday, 3-6 p.m.
Friday, 5-10 p.m.
Saturday, 6-11 p.m.

The Teen Center is designed to give teens a place to go after school and on the weekends. The center features pool tables, foosball tables, Internet access, a Dance Revolution machine, video games, study areas and a meeting room. The Teen Center arranges activities such as paintball, glow-in-the-dark bowling, and social awareness education.



Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Current points of contact for scouting organizations may be obtained by calling (661) 277-3433. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops on base promote character, social and skill development; citizenship training; sportsmanship; physical and mental fitness and pride in a growing mind and body for boys and girls in first through 12th grade.

OFF BASE

The Antelope Valley is a grand expanse of blue skies and sunshine radiating in every direction from Edwards Air Force Base. To the south and west are majestic mountains and to the north and east, the undulating endlessness of the Mojave Desert.

ORIGIN and HISTORY

At some time in the unrecorded past, thousands of years ago, an area of some 2,400 square miles was dropped or depressed about 100 feet below the surface of a vast coastal plain. When underground movement jarred the plain upward, the sunken area rose and became what is now known as the Antelope Valley.

The Paiute Indians were the first known human inhabitants of the area. The first white visitors were most likely Spanish navy deserters, members of the Portola party traveling in the valley's vicinity in 1769. In pursuing these deserters, Lt. Pedro Fages, one of Spain's Catalonia volunteers, reached the southern end of the Antelope Valley in 1772. His diarist reports that Indians were seen lurking behind what were thought to be date palms, but were actually Joshua trees.

The year 1776 brought Father Francisco Garces and three Indian guides from the San Gabriel Mission. Garces recorded his views of the vast land that was then called El Tehon Rancheria, or the Badger Ranch, of the Cuabajoy Indians. In 1834, Kit Carson and Gen. John C. Fremont came through the valley and remained long enough to establish



Joshua trees are a common sight in the Antelope Valley. Courtesy photo

what is today known as Fort Tejon Road. Wildlife was so plentiful at that time that it was said three geese were killed with one shot at Lake Elizabeth. Grass and desert growth was luxuriant and pools of water stood in many places over the valley floor.

The first determined settlers chose the Lake Elizabeth region and the foothill of the Tehachapi Mountains. The general area became known as the Antelope Valley because of the immense herds of these animals. Yet, hunters and severe winters in the late 1800s decimated the herds.

The Southern Pacific Railroad, between San Francisco and Los Angeles, was completed in 1876 with the rails from Los Angeles having been placed as far inland as Soledad Canyon to the south of the valley. The frantic race between the two large opposing work forces ended with the ceremonial driving of the golden spike to join the rails and heralded the opening of the Antelope Valley to the outside world.

By 1890, the Antelope Valley was in a very prosperous condition, especially in the southern portion of Lancaster and Palmdale. Land seekers and settlers had come in large numbers. Many families with financial means settled in the eastern segment of the valley to begin raising grain and fruits and related agricultural products.



The Walmart Super Center located in prosperous present day Palmdale.
Photo by Thomas Powell

The year 1898 was a year of “firsts” for the valley. The previous year borax had been discovered in the United States, and in 1898 it was found that an immense deposit of borax lay beneath the desert landscape of the Antelope Valley. Within the same 12 months, gold was discovered in Rosamond. Men working the mines made their way across what was known then as Rodriguez Dry Lakebed, to and from work, on a V-shaped wagon rigged with sails.

The age of aviation came to the Antelope Valley in the 1930s when the Army Air Corps began training operations on the shores of the dry lakebed at the Muroc Bombing and Gunnery Range, now Edwards Air Force Base. During World War II, the dry lakebed “floated” a huge wooden battleship—the Muroc Maru—constructed to train bombardiers in the use of bombsites. Runways now bisect the lakebed.

Today the Antelope Valley has learned to successfully blend the traditional pursuits of business, commerce, industry, agriculture and mining with the technology of the aerospace frontier, while remaining a place where people prefer to live and visitors return time and time again. This high desert area is known for its contributions to the defense of the nation with its close proximity to existing Department of Defense facilities, including Edwards, Air Force Plant 42 and China Lake Naval Weapons Center.



An Edwards B-1 launches a Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile at China Lake Naval Air Warfare Center Jan 16. Photo by Bobbi Garcia

VALLEY LOCATION

The Antelope Valley, one of many valleys in the Mojave Desert, is bordered by the San Gabriel Mountains to the south, the Tehachapi Mountains to the west, the greater Mojave Desert to the north and Victor Valley to the east. Rosamond, Mojave, California City, Boron and the greater part of Edwards lie in Kern County in the northern part of the valley. Lancaster, Palmdale, Quartz Hill, Littlerock and the southernmost sliver of Edwards lie in Los Angeles County in the southern and central part of the valley. The eastern part of the valley falls within San Bernardino County.



Photo by John Wilson

Annual Events

MARCH

Almond Blossom Festival Quartz Hill, Calif. (661) 722-4811

This unique local festival features a myriad of blooming almond trees on nearby Quartz Hill. The event also includes the Almond Festival parade, one of the oldest parades in the Antelope Valley. The event is held the second weekend in March.



Photo by Thomas Powell

APRIL

California Poppy Festival Lancaster City Park Lancaster, Calif., (661) 723-6077

Celebrating Lancaster's most colorful seasonal visitors, the California Poppy, this event offers continuous family entertainment, wildflower arts and photo contests, an arts and crafts bazaar, environmental booths and unique cuisine. The event is held every April, and in 2006 will be the weekend of April 22 & 23.

JUNE

Tehachapi Valley Arts Association Springtime Fair

Tehachapi Central Park

Tehachapi, Calif., (661) 822-4180

The two-day fair features arts, crafts, food booths, games and entertainment. The event is typically held the second weekend in June.

JULY

Fourth of July

Palmdale High School, Riewer Field
Palmdale, Calif., (661) 267-5611

Starlight Concerts in July, August and September Marie Kerr Park

Palmdale, Calif., (661) 267-5611

AUGUST

Mountain Festival and Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association

Tehachapi Central Park and Rodeo Grounds

Tehachapi, Calif., (661) 822-4180

The biggest attraction for the year in Tehachapi is its Mountain Festival, coupled with the Rodeo. The festival and rodeo feature an arts and craft fair, more than 100 vendors, a pet parade, pancake breakfast, carnival and classic car show. The festival and rodeo are held the third weekend in August each year.

Antelope Valley Fair and Alfalfa Festival

2551 W. Ave. H

Lancaster, Calif., (661) 948-6060

<http://www.avfair.com>

This annual event is held at the newly constructed fairgrounds located at Ave. H and the Antelope Valley Freeway. The fair features concerts, carnival rides, livestock competition, bake-offs and children's shows. The fair is held each year in late August through early September.



Photo by Thomas Powell

SEPTEMBER

Aerospace Walk of Honor Celebration

Lancaster Blvd.

Lancaster, Calif., (661) 723-6053

<http://www.cityoflancasterca.org>

The ceremony attracts visitors to Lancaster Blvd. for the unveiling of granite monuments honoring Edwards' test pilots whose aviation careers are marked by significant flight test achievements. The annual event is held September 16, 2006, the Saturday before the Society of Experimental Test Pilots convention.

Annual Street Fair and Car Show

Quartz Hill, Calif., (661) 722-4811

Held the third Saturday in September. Information is available online at <http://www.quartzhillchamber.org>.

Fiddling Down the Tracks Fiddle Contest

Tehachapi Central Park

Tehachapi, Calif., (661) 822-4180

Contestants of all ages perform throughout the day. Food and craft booths are available. This is typically held the third weekend of September. Admission is free.

Rosamond Armed Forces Appreciation Day and Parade

Rosamond, Calif., (661) 256-3248

Downtown Rosamond celebrates and honors the armed forces with festivities that include a float parade and guest speakers. The event is on the fourth Saturday in September.

Tehachapi Valley Arts Association Fall Harvest Festival

Tehachapi Central Park

Tehachapi, Calif., (661) 822-4180

The two-day fair features arts, crafts, food booths, games and entertainment. The event is typically held the third weekend in September.

Valyermo Annual Fall Festival

St. Andrew's Abbey

Valyermo, Calif., (661) 944-2178

<http://www.valyermofallfestival.com>

Held each year during the weekend of the last Sunday in September, the festival features music, crafts and food on the shady grounds of the Abbey, home to an order of Benedictine monks. The event, which routinely draws 20,000 visitors annually, is free. However, there is a \$4 parking donation.

OCTOBER

Palmdale Fall Festival

Marie Kerr Park

Palmdale, Calif., (661) 267-5611

<http://www.cityofpalmdale.org>

This family celebration features crafts, fine arts, games and rides for children, live entertainment, international food booths and an aerospace exhibit. The event is held the second weekend in October each year.



Photo by Ray Felix

Attractions

Aerospace Walk of Honor Lancaster Blvd.

Lancaster, Calif., (661) 723-6053
<http://www.cityoflanasterca.org>

The Aerospace Walk of Honor hosts granite monuments honoring Edwards Air Force Base test pilots whose aviation careers are marked by significant flight test achievements.

Blackbird Airpark

25th St. E. and Rancho Vista Blvd. (Ave. P)
Palmdale, Calif., (661) 277-8050

The Air Force Flight Test Center Museum's Blackbird Airpark annex is the world's only display of a Lockheed SR-71A together with its Blackbird predecessor, the A-12, and the once ultra-secret D-21 drone. A Lockheed U-2D aircraft can also be seen at the airpark, along with a number of supporting exhibits including a restored crash fire truck, wind tunnel models, and jet engines. The park is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday. More information can be found at <http://www.flighttest.org>

Calico Ghost Town

Yermo, Calif., (800) TO-CALICO
<http://www.calicotown.com>

The Calico Ghost Town treats spectators to gunfight re-enactments, historical shops and mines. Camping facilities, as well as RV hookups, are available. It is open from 8 a.m. until dusk daily, with the shops open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., daily except for Christmas.

Devil's Punchbowl

28000 Devil's Punchbowl Rd.
Pearblossom, Calif., (661) 944-2743
<http://www.devils-punchbowl.com>

Devil's Punchbowl is a 1,300-acre park with a system of hiking trails, including a one-mile loop down a 300-foot canyon. A visitor's center features an exhibit of native animals such as snakes, bobcats, coyotes, owls and other birds. Picnic facilities are available.

Exotic Feline Breeding Compound

Mojave-Tropical Rd.
Rosamond, Calif., (661) 256-3332
<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org>

Home to over 70 of the world's most endangered felines, the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound is a breeding zoo and research facility. The facility is a nonprofit organization and funds received are used for the care and support of the compound's animals and long-term goals, which include a natural history museum and public education programs. The compound is closed on Wednesdays and Christmas Day.

Kern River Whitewater Rafting

Lake Isabella, Calif., (866) KRV4FUN
<http://www.kernrivervalley.com>

The river is a favorite place for white-water rafting and holds tours May through September. Children under the age of 8 are not permitted. The area boasts camping fishing, hiking, windsurfing and skiing. The Web site offers a calendar of events.

Lake Isabella

Lake Isabella, Calif., (760) 379-5236,
or (866) KRV4FUN

Lake Isabella, created in 1953 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dammed the Kern River, flourishes as a tourist center for fishing, boating, camping and picnicking. Boats for fishing or lake exploration may be rented at marinas along the shore. Detailed information is available at <http://www.kernrivervalley.com>.

Lancaster JetHawks Baseball

45116 Valley Central Way
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 726-5400
<http://www.jethawks.com>

The Lancaster JetHawks are the California League Class-A farm team for the Arizona Diamondbacks and provide baseball enthusiasts local entertainment at the Lancaster Municipal Stadium.

Lancaster Performing Arts Center

750 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 723-5950
<http://www.lpac.org>

The center provides top-quality entertainment as well as symphonies, ballet troupes, holiday performances such as "The Nutcracker" and "A Christmas Carol" and musical performances of every kind, including jazz, classical, pop and more.

Los Angeles County Raceway

6850 E. Ave. T
Palmdale, Calif., (661) 533-2224
<http://www.lacr.net>

This quarter-mile drag strip, featuring National Hot Rod Association drag racing and the annual Palmdale meet, is open year round. Schedules and information can be found at the Web site.

Palmdale Plant 42 Heritage Airpark

2001 E. Ave. P
Palmdale, Calif., (661) 267-5115
<http://www.cityofpalmdale.org/airpark>

Visitors may view a collection of aircraft flown, tested, produced or modified at U.S. Air Force Plant 42. The first five-acre phase of the Airpark has nine planes on display, including an F-100 Super Sabre, an A-4 Skyhawk and a T-38 Talon.

Palmdale Playhouse

38334 10th St. E.
Palmdale, Calif., (661) 267-5685
<http://www.cityofpalmdale.org>

The Palmdale Playhouse features a 350-seat theatre and provides a wide variety of professional entertainment and community theatre in its season lineup including orchestras, choirs, drama, dance, an art gallery and visual and performing arts programs for the community.

Tehachapi Loop Tehachapi, Calif.

Railroad fans flock to the Tehachapi Loop where the spiraling Southern Pacific main line makes a 360-degree turn as it climbs from the valley to the mountains. More details may be found at <http://www.tehachapi.com>.

Twenty Mule Team Museum

26962 Twenty-Mule Team Rd.
Boron, Calif., (760) 762-5810

The Twenty Mule Team Museum offers extensive insights into the many different ways borax is used and how it is excavated from California's largest open-pit mine. The museum is open seven days a week, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed on major holidays.

Vernon P. Saxon Jr. Aero Space Museum

26922 Twenty-Mule Team Rd.
Boron, Calif., (760) 762-6600
<http://www.boronchamber.org/saxon.html>

Open daily, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., except for major holidays. The museum, known as the Northern Gateway to Aerospace Valley, was put together through a collaborative effort by Team Edwards, U.S. Borax, KJC Operating Company and Boron community volunteers. The museum is dedicated to collecting, interpreting, preserving and displaying aeronautical and aerospace memorabilia from experimental flight research performed over the skies of Boron and the surrounding Antelope Valley.

Willow Springs International Motor Sports Park

3500 75th St. W.
Rosamond, Calif., (661) 256-2471
The raceway hosts a 600-acre complex of six racetracks embracing nearly every conceivable motor sports discipline. Schedules and more information may be found at <http://www.willowspringsraceway.com>.

Wind Turbines

Tehachapi Mountains

Tehachapi, Calif., (661) 822-4180
The Tehachapi area is the world's largest producer of wind-generated electricity and hosts a mountainside of turbines. A wind turbine captures the energy of the wind to drive a generator. As the generator turns, it produces electricity. More information is available online at <http://www.tehachapi.com/wind>.

COMMUNITY PROFILES

Boron, Calif.

Population: 3,600

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 23

Elected official: Chamber of Commerce president, F.O. Roe

School system: Muroc Unified School District, (661) 258-4178

Chamber of Commerce: 26962 Twenty-Mule Team Rd., Boron, Calif., 93516, (760) 762-5810

Web address: <http://www.boronchamber.org>

Located northeast of Edwards along California State Hwy. 58, the community of Boron is the site of a giant open-pit mine from which the extracted element, borax, lends the town its name. The pit, the largest in the Western Hemisphere, is owned and operated by the U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation and employs a great deal of the community. Edwards employs the remainder. The town is also home of the Col. Vernon P. Saxon Jr. Aerospace Museum.

The town's people tuck themselves into the preservation of the rich history of both Boron and Edwards. Kern County provides the community's branch library, fire station and sheriff's department. The U.S. Post Office is centrally located on Boron Ave.

California City, Calif.

Population: 11,500

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 17

Elected official: Mayor Larry Adams

School system: Mojave Unified School District, (661) 824-4001

Chamber of Commerce: 8001 California City Blvd., California City, Calif., 93505, (760) 373-8676

Web address: <http://www.californiacity-ca.us>

Begun as a private commercial development, the community was incorporated in 1965 and ranks as the third largest incorporated city in terms of land area in California. Located northwest of the base along Hwy. 58 and a northern jaunt on California City Blvd., the small community offers all the enhancements of the original developer's grand vision: easy shopping, an 18-hole golf course and a central park offering swimming, boating, fishing, illuminated tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts, picnic facilities, barbecue pits, children's playgrounds and a marina facility.

Lancaster, Calif.

Population: 133,000

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 29

Elected official: Mayor Frank Roberts

School system: Antelope Valley Union High School District, (661) 948-7655; Eastside Union School District, (661) 946-2813; Lancaster School District, (661) 948-4661; Westside Union School District, (661) 948-2669

Chamber of Commerce: 554 W. Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, Calif., 93534, (661) 948-4518

Web address: <http://www.cityoflancasterca.org>

A thriving, civic-spirited community, Lancaster has enjoyed unprecedented growth and prosperity in the last decade. During this time, Lancaster has grown to be the commercial and business center of the Antelope Valley and promises to continue such growth.



Lancaster Blvd., outside of the Performing Arts Center. Photo by Thomas Powell

With proximity to the Los Angeles metropolitan area and yet clean air and blue skies, the community is an affordable choice conveniently located to much of Southern California's attractions and aerospace industry employment. Lancaster has a council-manager/administer form of government with five elected council members and 230 full-time employees. All public safety services, including police and fire, are provided by the County of Los Angeles, while the sheriff's department performs contract-based services, and the fire department performs under a Fire Protection District approach.

Mojave, Calif.

Population: 3,863

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 35

Elected official: Unincorporated

School system: Mojave Unified School District, (661) 824-4001

Chamber of Commerce: (661) 824-2481, or call Kern Economic Development Corporation at (661) 862-5150

Web address: <http://www.mojave.ca.us>

Mojave sits at the junction of California Highways 14 and 58 and to some is a gateway to such popular spots as Mammoth and the Eastern Sierras, Las Vegas, Eastern Mojave Desert and to the Los Angeles Basin. But Mojave itself is the location of several natural wonders and historical sites that include mining ghost towns and more.

Anyone driving through Mojave is certain to notice the Mojave Airport. Known to many as the civilian flight test center and the launching spot of SpaceShipOne, the airport is unique in its locale and environmental conditions and is known both for its flight test activities and for the maintenance and storage services provided to the airline industry.

CHURCHES

Nearly all faiths and denominations are represented in the Antelope Valley area. Local chambers of commerce listed on the following pages can provide detailed information.

North Edwards, Calif.

Population: 1,227

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 9

Elected official: none

School system: Muroc Joint Unified School District, (661) 258-4001

Chamber of Commerce: none

Web address: none

North Edwards is an unincorporated bedroom community just north of Edwards along Hwy. 58. School-age children go to school at Edwards. Housing is affordable, though shopping convenience is limited.

Palmdale, Calif.

Population: 136,734

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 39

Elected official: Mayor James Ledford Jr.

School systems: Antelope Valley Union High School District (high schools), (661) 948-7655; Palmdale School District (elementary and junior high schools), (661) 947-7191; Westside Union School District (elementary and junior high schools), (661) 948-2669

Chamber of Commerce: 817 E. Ave. Q-9, Palmdale, Calif., 93550, (661) 273-3232

Web address: <http://www.cityofpalmdale.org>

Palmdale's biggest industry and employer is aerospace. Thousands of residents are employed at Air Force Plant 42 Production Flight Test Installation and Edwards Air Force Base. Plant 42 is a huge complex including more than eight million square feet of covered space. Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co., Northrop Grumman and The Boeing Co. have billions of dollars in aerospace projects there. Producers, manufacturers, wholesalers, government and business services comprise 76 percent of the city's employment force. Natural resources also provide employment in the fields of sand, gravel, rock and cement production. The film industry finds Palmdale's high desert locations very attractive and spends millions of dollars here annually.

A community of 136,734 residents, Palmdale has a civic foundation in the Larry Chimbole Cultural Center, Palmdale Playhouse and Poncitlan Square, a park fashioned after one in Poncitlan, Mexico, Palmdale's sister city.

Quartz Hill, Calif.

Population: 10,000

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 35

Elected officials: none

School system: Westside School District, (661) 722-0716

Chamber of Commerce: 42043 50th St. W., Quartz Hill, Calif., 93536, (661) 722-4811

Web address: <http://www.quartzhillchamber.org>

Quartz Hill, a small, primarily residential, unincorporated community, is situated just four-and-a-half square miles west of Lancaster and Palmdale. Residents enjoy the rustic qualities of the town with horseback riding on many trails, fishing in the nearby California Aqueduct and a view of nature. The community is known for its almond orchards and the annual almond festival parade.

Rosamond, Calif.

Population: 18,500

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 19

Elected official: Mayor Jed Dyke

School system: Southern Kern Unified School District, (661) 256-5000

Chamber of Commerce: 2861 Diamond St., Rosamond, Calif., 94560, (661) 256-3248

Web address: <http://www.avchambers.com>

Just a straight shot west of Edwards along Rosamond Boulevard, the small community of Rosamond is a mecca for rock-hounds with its cradling and abundant hillside landscape of beautiful rocks – especially at Gem Hill, located four miles north of the community.

Kern County provides fire and police protection in addition to supporting a community recreation building and three parks with a lighted baseball diamond. Agriculture pertinent to the area includes alfalfa, sugar beets, potatoes and onions. The community also has a community/senior center. The community is the home of Willow Springs Raceway and the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound.

Tehachapi, Calif.

Population: 32,643

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 45

Elected official: Mayor Mariana Teel

School system: Tehachapi Unified School District, (661) 822-2100

Chamber of Commerce: P.O. Box 401, Tehachapi, Calif., 93581, (661) 822-4180

Web address: <http://www.tehachapicityhall.com>

Located in the mountains about 45 miles from the base and about 4,000 feet above sea level, Tehachapi offers a cool alternative to the warm Mojave Desert summers.

Tehachapi has a rural atmosphere with farming as a way of life for many residents. Award-winning livestock are common in the area as well as famous apples, pears and cherries.

Area residents visit Tehachapi year round for the Mountain Festival, the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association rodeo in August, the apple and pumpkin harvest in the fall and the cool mountain breezes in the summer.

Victorville, Calif.

Population: 77,881

Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Building: 55

Elected official: Mayor Terry Caldwell

School system: Victor Valley Union High School District, (760) 955-3200; Victor Elementary School District, (760) 245-1691

Chamber of Commerce: P.O. Box 997, Victorville, Calif., 92392, (760) 245-6506

Web address: <http://www.vvchamber.com>

Located to the east of Edwards in the high desert of Victor Valley, Victorville is accessible via interstates 15 and 395, conveniently linking the city with all other areas of Southern California.

The community encompasses approximately 68 square miles and has experienced an annual growth in population of nearly 19 percent.

COLLEGES

Antelope Valley College

3041 W. Ave. K
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 722-6300
<http://www.avc.edu>

Antelope Valley College offers a diverse selection of two-year academic and vocational programs.



Antelope Valley College campus. Photo by Thomas Powell

California State University Bakersfield

Antelope Valley Campus
43909 30th St. W.
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 952-5000
<http://www.calstate.edu>

Cal State University Bakersfield offers a variety of classes here in the Antelope Valley.

Chapman University

140 Methusa Ave.
Edwards AFB, Calif., (661) 258-5251
40015 Sierra Hwy.
Palmdale, Calif., (661) 267-2001

Chapman University offers Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, teaching credentials, evening classes and accelerated programs.

HOSPITALS

Antelope Valley Hospital

1600 W. Ave. J
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 949-5000

Lancaster Community Hospital

43830 10th St. W.
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 948-4781

MUSEUMS

Antelope Valley Indian Museum

15701 E. Ave. M.
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 942-0662
<http://www.avim.av.org>

Originally built as a private home, the museum is built into and around the rocks of Paiute Butte in the Mojave Desert. The museum highlights the valley's Indian culture.

Lancaster Museum/Art Gallery

44801 Sierra Hwy.
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 948-1322

The museum and gallery feature a variety of local, regional and international art and historic exhibits. The gallery hosts a rotating exhibit, an all-media art exhibition and a student art exhibition.

Twenty Mule Team Museum

26962 Twenty-Mule Team Rd.
Boron, Calif., (760) 762-5810
<http://www.20muleteammuseum.org>

The museum embraces both the history of aerospace as forged at Edwards and the history of the famous Borax Twenty Mule Team days – all in a renovated house that used to be near a borax mine campsite.



Photo by Thomas Powell

Western Hotel Museum

557 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 723-6260
<http://www.cityoflancasterca.org>

Lancaster's oldest structure displays Antelope Valley artifacts. Still visible on a sidewalk behind the museum are the footprints of a young Frances Gumm, better known as Judy Garland, from the days of her childhood in Lancaster.

PARKS and RECREATION

Lancaster National Soccer Center

43000 30th St. E.
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 723-6098
<http://www.lancastersoccercenter.com>

This 160-acre complex with 34 fields attracts regional and national tournaments, in addition to serving local youth and adult soccer teams.

Lancaster City Park and Big 8 Softball Complex

43011 N. 10th St. W.
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 723-6276
<http://www.big8softball.com>

One of the largest of all softball complexes in California, the Big 8 is known as the "Softball Tournament Destination Location."

Saddleback Butte State Park

Ave. J and 170th St. E.
Lancaster, Calif., (661) 942-0662
http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=618

Saddleback Butte, elevation 3,651 feet, is a granite mountain top that stands some thousand feet above the broad alluvial bottom land of the Antelope Valley about twenty miles east of Lancaster, on the western edge of the Mojave Desert. Activities include camping, exhibits, hiking trails and guided tours.

Red Rock Canyon State Park

California State Hwy. 14
Mojave, Calif., (661) 942-0662
http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=631

Located 23 miles northeast of Mojave, the park features spectacular red and gray sandstones that have eroded into a variety of shapes.



Sandstones of the Mojave. Photo by Photos.com



Photo by Thomas Powell

SHOPPING

Lancaster and Palmdale provide base personnel extensive shopping opportunities. Both feature virtually every national and regional retail store, making it unnecessary to travel outside the Antelope Valley for most goods and services.

Lancaster's main shopping area is located on Valley Central Way just off California State Hwy. 14 at exits for either avenue I or J, about 30 minutes from base housing. Palmdale's primary shopping area is anchored by the Antelope Valley Mall, the area's only covered shopping mall, located on W. Ave. P, just off the California State Hwy. 14 at the exit for 10th St., about 40 minutes from base housing.

Also popular are the outlet stores in Barstow, located one hour west of the base off California State Hwy. 58, and in Ontario, about one-and-a-half hours south of the base near the intersection of Interstates 10 and 15.

Large mall complexes in the Los Angeles area are one to two hours away via California State Hwy. 14.

TRANSPORTATION

Antelope Valley Airport Express

42540 6th St. E.

Lancaster, Calif., (661) 945-2529

<http://www.avairportexpress.com>

AV Airport Express offers the only airport shuttle to Los Angeles International Airport from the Antelope Valley.

Antelope Valley Transit Authority

1031 W. Ave. L-12

Lancaster, Calif., (661) 945-9445

<http://www.avta.com>

The AV Transit Authority provides local public bus transportation primarily within Palmdale and Lancaster. Commuter transit between the Antelope Valley and the Los Angeles metropolitan area is also available. Dial-a-ride service is offered for senior citizens and disabled persons.

Greyhound Bus Company

44812 N. Sierra Hwy

Lancaster, Calif., (661) 949-2827



Photo by Thomas Powell

Metro-Link

(800) 371-5465

<http://www.metrolinktrains.com>

Built in the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the Metro-Link stations and commuter train service provide residents with a convenient and affordable mode of travel to the Los Angeles area.

Palmdale Regional Airport

41000 20th St. E.

Palmdale, Calif., (661) 266-7600

The Palmdale Regional Airport is located in the Antelope Valley, in the northeast portion of the city of Palmdale, on a 60-acre site on U. S. Air Force Plant 42. The airport features a modern 9,000-square-foot terminal capable of handling up to 300,000 passengers annually.

The airport reopened for scheduled commercial air service in December 2004 when Scenic Airlines began nonstop service to North Las Vegas Airport. This is the first time since 1998 that the airport offered scheduled air service.



Photo by Thomas Powell

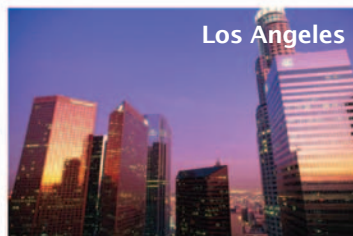
BEYOND the Local Area



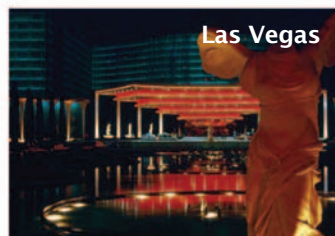
Hollywood



San Diego



Los Angeles



Las Vegas

COMMUNITY PROFILES

Bakersfield, Calif.

Chamber of Commerce

1725 Eye St.

Bakersfield, Calif., 93301, (661) 327-4421

<http://www.bakersfield.org/chamber>

Bakersfield is located in the county of Kern and is the county seat. The City of Bakersfield is located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, which is partially surrounded by three mountain ranges. The Tehachapis to the west, the Sierra Nevadas to the east. The Kern River flows through the valley adding natural beauty to the area. Bakersfield was designated an All-America City in 1990 by the National Civic League.

Kern County is among the leading oil producing counties in the continental United States and the fourth most productive agricultural county in the nation. Grapes, citrus, cotton, dairy and almonds are the top five crops.

Barstow, Calif.

Chamber of Commerce

409 E. Fredericks St., P.O. Box 698

Barstow, Calif., 92311, (760) 256-8617

<http://www.barstowchamber.com>

Barstow is located midway between the popular tourist destinations of Southern California and Las Vegas, Nev., approximately 50 miles east of Edwards. Situated at the crossroads of Interstates 15 and 40, and State Hwys. 58 and 247, the community provides outlet mall shopping with more than 100 outlet stores.

Hollywood, Calif.

Chamber of Commerce

7018 Hollywood Blvd.

Hollywood, Calif., 90028, (323) 469-8311

<http://www.hollywoodchamber.net>

Hollywood is famous as a movie-making town and the home of many stars.

Some of its attractions include Mann's Chinese Theatre, the Walk of Fame, Hollywood studio and back-lot tours, and live filming. Mann's Chinese Theatre is renowned for hosting the handprints and footprints of the entertainment industry's major stars as imprinted in concrete in front of the theater, located at 6925 Hollywood Blvd. A section of the Walk of Fame, where more than 2,000 famous celebrities' names are engraved in stars along the sidewalk, is also found on Hollywood Boulevard. Many sightseeing tours are also available to get a sneak peek at film studios and back-lots, Hollywood landmarks and celebrity homes.

Las Vegas, Nev.

Chamber of Commerce

3720 Howard Hughes Pkwy.

Las Vegas, Nev., 89109-0937, (702) 735-1616

<http://www.lvchamber.com>

Las Vegas is a city that never sleeps and boasts nightlife as its biggest attraction. The city draws more than 35 million visitors annually to its gambling tables, slot machines and big-name entertainment at luxurious hotel casinos along the famous strip.

While much of Las Vegas is restricted to those over 21 years old, it is possible for the whole family to enjoy a visit. Activities for children range from fast action video arcades and water parks to magnificent show productions and the natural and man-made wonders in and around Las Vegas.

Also, within the vicinity of Las Vegas is Lake Mead, just a 30-minute drive away from the city. Sailing, water skiing, wind surfing, motor boating, fishing, swimming and canyon exploring are all readily available for the outdoors enthusiast. Hoover Dam, which created the lake, is considered one of the engineering wonders of the world and may be toured daily.

Las Vegas is located three-and-a-half to four hours northeast of Edwards, a nearly straight shot along California State Hwy. 58 through Barstow to Interstate 15 E. across the state line.

Professional Teams

BASEBALL

Three Major League Baseball teams call Southern California home.

- Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, (888) 796-HALO, <http://www.angelsbaseball.com>
- Los Angeles Dodgers, (800) 636-3437, <http://www.dodgers.com>
- San Diego Padres, (888) MY PADRES, <http://www.padres.com>

BASKETBALL

Two National Basketball Association teams and one Women's NBA team are located in Southern California.

- Los Angeles Lakers, (310) 426-6000, <http://www.lakers.com>
- Los Angeles Clippers, (888) 895-8662, <http://www.clippers.com>
- Los Angeles Sparks, (877) 44-SPARKS, <http://www.wnba.com/sparks>

HOCKEY

Two National Hockey League teams call the Los Angeles area home.

- Los Angeles Kings, (213)-742-7100, <http://www.lakings.com>
- Anaheim Mighty Ducks, (877) WILD WING, <http://www.mightyducks.com>

Los Angeles, Calif.

Los Angeles Area Chamber
of Commerce
350 S. Bixel St.
Los Angeles, Calif., 90017
(213) 580-7500
<http://www.lachamber.org>

Los Angeles is California's largest city, both in population and in territory nearly 470 square miles, is roughly the same size as Edwards. The city ranks second in city and metropolitan area population in the United States. Los Angeles is a collection of intermingling communities, each with its own identity and character.

The area thrives on tourism, world trade and highly diversified industries predominantly oil, electronics, finance, entertainment, real estate, aircraft and aerospace.

Even with 3.7 million residents, Los Angeles is hardly a city in the traditional sense; it lacks a concentrated urban center and rather sprawls on in every direction, from sea and shore to the Hollywood hills. A dense network of interstates grid the basin and support the flux of traffic from dawn 'til dusk.

San Diego, Calif.

San Diego Visitor
Information Center
2688 E. Mission Bay Dr.
San Diego, Calif., 92109
(866) 746-8440
<http://www.infosandiego.com>

Nicknamed "America's Finest City," San Diego is one of the most popular stops for tourists visiting California. For more than 200 years, this city has been attracting visitors from all over the world.

San Diego Bay is a large natural harbor that is pivotal for commerce and for the military presence in the area. The bay is home to the Navy's 3rd Fleet, which houses and maintains its ships and submarines in the harbor. The U.S. Naval and Marine Training Centers and the U.S. Naval Air Station surround the bay.

San Diego is located approximately 180 miles south of Edwards, a straight southern jaunt along Interstate 15 through San Bernardino and Riverside.

AMUSEMENT PARKS & ATTRACTIONS

Disneyland

1313 Harbor Blvd.
Anaheim, Calif., (714) 781-4565
<http://www.disneyland.com>

One of America's favorite amusement parks is located in Anaheim, approximately 130 miles south of Edwards. Disneyland features eight different theme areas: Adventureland, Critter Country, Fantasyland, Frontierland, Main Street, U.S.A., Mickey's Toon Town, New Orleans Square and Tomorrowland. Each area features rides and exhibits to match its theme. Adjacent to Disneyland is Disney's California Adventure theme park, as well as the Downtown Disney District.

Knott's Berry Farm

8039 Beach Blvd.
Buena Park, Calif., (714) 220-5200
<http://www.knotts.com>

This family attraction, located approximately 130 miles south of Edwards, features a variety of thrill rides and theme areas, including Old West Ghost Town, Camp Snoopy, Fiesta Village, Indian Trails, Wild Water Wilderness and The Boardwalk. Next to Knott's Berry Farm is Knott's Soak City U.S.A. water park.

San Diego Zoo

2920 Zoo Dr.
Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.
(619) 234-3153
<http://www.sandiegozoo.org>

The San Diego Zoo is one of the largest zoos in the world and encompasses more than 100 landscaped acres of tropical and sub-

tropical vegetation. More than 4,000 animals from 800 species, some of which are the rarest specimens in the world, can be witnessed in their unique habitats without bars, in moated enclosures. A children's zoo allows children the chance to pet the gentler animals.

Sea World

500 Sea World Dr.
San Diego, Calif., (800) 25-SHAMU
<http://www.seaworld.org>

Sea World is one of California's most popular marine parks. The park's 189 acres are home to a vast array of sea life including Shamu, the world-famous, two-ton killer whale. Live shows include the antics of dolphins and sea lions. There are also several attractions including the Shark Encounter, a 280,000-gallon attraction featuring a 57-foot, walk-through acrylic tube running the length of the shark habitat. It contains hundreds of sand, tiger, bonnet-head, blacktip and whitetip sharks.

Six Flags Magic Mountain

26101 Magic Mountain Pkwy.
Valencia, Calif., (661) 255-4100
<http://www.sixflags.com/magicmountain>

Spread out over 260 acres, the amusement park offers more than 100 shows, attractions and rides to keep the whole family entertained. Adjacent to the amusement park is Six Flags Hurricane Harbor.

Universal Studios

100 Universal City Plaza
Universal City, Calif.
(800) UNIVERSAL
<http://www.universalstudios.com/unicity2>

Universal Studios allows visitors to sneak a peek behind the scenes of movie making. Tram rides through back lots and studios; costumes and props; sound stages and special effects demonstrations reveal the secrets of hit movies and television shows. Next door is Universal City Walk, featuring entertainment, dining and shopping.



Photo by Photos.com

BEACHES

The beautiful and diverse terrain along the California coast offers a wealth of activities to enjoy, many of which are readily accessible from California's Pacific Coast Highway, or California State Hwy. 1.

To the north, the water and weather can be rough, giving the coastline a rugged character. To the south, the water is calmer, the beaches are wider and the climate is more temperate.

Catalina Island

Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 217
Avalon, Calif., 90704, (310) 510-1520
<http://www.visitcatalina.org>

Twenty-two miles across the ocean from mainland Los Angeles is Catalina Island. Discovered more than 400 years ago as a hideout for smugglers and pirates, the island is one of Southern California's most popular resorts. Avalon is the island's only city, and Avalon Bay is the site of the island's most famous landmark, the Casino Building. The island can be reached by sea or air, and there are a variety of express services available.

Los Angeles County

<http://beaches.co.la.ca.us>

Popular Los Angeles area beaches include Malibu, Santa Monica, Venice, Manhattan and Long Beach. Los Angeles County beaches offer swimming, surfing, sand volleyball, bike and roller blade paths, piers, fishing and numerous concessions. Public restrooms and showers are usually available.

Monterey, Big Sur and Morro Bay

<http://www.mpcc.com>, <http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org>, <http://www.morro-bay.net>

Big Sur is a favorite stretch of California coastline, between the towns of Carmel and Lucia. For approximately 50 miles, Pacific Coast Highway 1 winds between the Pacific Ocean and a redwood forest. The Santa Lucia Mountains rise steeply from the ocean, and the canyons contain groves of trees. Summer fogs can linger most of the day; the best time to experience the route is in the afternoon.

Ocean life – whales, dolphins, sea lions and frolicking sea otters – stems off the coast and is a common sight to see. Sea otters are found in great numbers from Monterey Bay to Morro Bay, while sea lions are commonly seen near the shore or on the rocks. Whale-watching is a popular pastime during the winter. Many seaside communities offer excursions to catch a close-up view of the California gray whale's annual 6,000-mile migration.

MILITARY LODGING

The following listing is not complete, but presents some of the more popular military lodging opportunities in and around Southern California.

Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base

San Diego, Calif.
(760) 725-5194/725-5304

Camp Pendleton's Ward Lodging is located 40 miles north of San Diego on Interstate 5.

China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station

China Lake, Calif., (760) 939-2383

China Lake is located 60 miles almost directly north of Edwards.

Coronado Naval Amphibious Base San Diego, Calif., (619) 437-3860

The island of Coronado and the naval base are located five miles south of San Diego. The accommodations are close to Coronado Beach, Sea World and many other San Diego attractions.

Fort Irwin National Training Center Fort Irwin, Calif., (760) 380-4599

The center is located roughly 55 miles northeast of San Bernardino, Calif., and north on Interstate 15 near Barstow.

Nellis Air Force Base Las Vegas, Nev., (888) AF-LODGE

Nellis' Air Force Inn is located eight miles northeast of Las Vegas.

North Island Naval Air Station San Diego, Calif., (800) NAVY-INN

North Island's Navy Lodge is located five miles southwest of San Diego.

Point Mugu Naval Air Station Point Mugu, Calif., (805) 989-8407

Point Mugu is located eight miles south of Oxnard, Calif., and 40 miles north of Santa Monica, Calif., on Pacific Coast Hwy. 1.

Port Hueneme Naval Construction Oxnard, Calif., (800) NAVY-INN

Port Hueneme's Navy Lodge is located 25 miles southeast of Santa Barbara, Calif.

San Diego Naval Submarine Base San Diego, Calif., (619) 553-9381

The submarine base's Dolphin Lodge and Inn is located within the city limits of San Diego.

Travis Air Force Base Travis Air Force Base, Calif. (888) AF-LODGE

Travis' West Wind Inn is located 45 miles northeast of San Francisco.

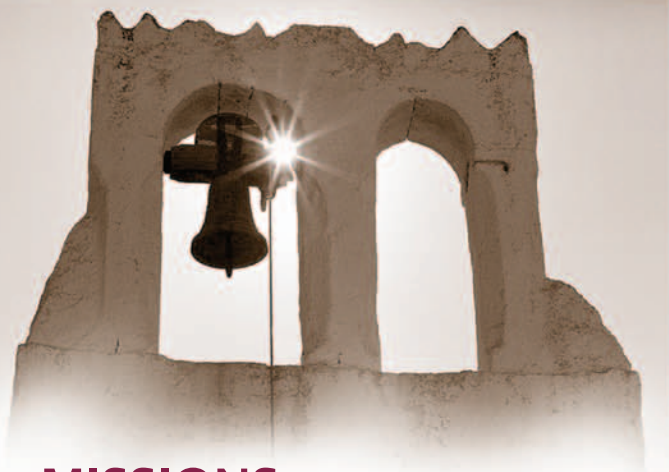
Vandenberg Air Force Base Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. (888) AF-LODGE

Vandenberg AFB, located 22 miles south of Santa Maria, Calif., offers accommodations at the Vandenberg Lodge.

San Diego

<http://www.sannet.gov/lifeguards/beaches>

The city of San Diego has about 17 miles of Pacific Ocean shores and is known nationwide for its beautiful beaches. Popular beaches in the area include La Jolla, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and Coronado on Coronado Island. Recreational water activities such as surfing, "boogie" boarding, snorkeling, scuba diving and swimming are common at area beaches. Mission Bay Park has become a popular spot for visitors as well as area residents. The more than 4,200-acre aquatic park has beaches, bike trails, boat-launching ramps, a golf course, picnic grounds, playgrounds, resort hotels and restaurants. Most visitors usually plan a full day's activities here or just a relaxing day enjoying the sun and scenery.



MISSIONS

<http://www.ca-missions.org/contact.html>

In 1768, fearing that Russia or Britain would establish outposts in California, the Spanish formulated a plan of colonization by founding missions, forts and pueblos to secure the land for the Spanish crown.

Father Junipero Serra officiated the founding of the first establishment in San Diego. Eventually, a chain of 21 California missions would extend from San Diego to the San Francisco area. Communities have developed around most of the missions, but each – in its individual way – continues to perpetuate the flavor of the Spanish era. Every mission has its distinctive architecture and restful gardens. Many have rooms and even formal museums filled with picturesque artifacts which help visitors visualize the era when the missions were California's only points of Western European style civilization.

The missions are open to the public. Some offer individually guided tours, while others provide self-guided literature. Nominal admission charges or donations are requested.

MUSEUMS



Getty Center

1200 Getty Center Dr.

Los Angeles, Calif.

(310) 440-7330

<http://www.getty.edu/museum>

The Getty Center unites the J. Paul Getty Trust's museum, institutes and grant program in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. The centerpiece of the 110-acre complex is the museum and its collections of pre-20th century European paintings, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, decorative arts and photographs.

L.A. County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., (323) 857-6000

<http://www.lacma.org>

The L.A. County Museum of Art is a five-building complex housing paintings, sculptures, costumes, textiles and decorative art from around the world. The collections comprise more than 150,000 works and span the history of art from ancient times to the present. In addition to presenting more than 30 exhibitions each year, the museum also sponsors concerts, film programs and lectures that complement its collections.

Movieland Wax Museum

7711 Beach Blvd.

Buena Park, Calif., (714) 522-1155

<http://www.movielandwaxmuseum.com/mwm.html>

Visitors can see their favorite film stars – at least wax-molded figures of them – one block north of Knott's Berry Farm. Some of the most memorable scenes in motion pictures are recreated in exacting detail.

Natural History Museum of L.A. County

900 Exposition Blvd.

Los Angeles, Calif., (213) 763-3466

<http://www.nhm.org>

The Natural History Museum has detailed habitats of African, North American and exotic mammals; birds, insects and marine life; dinosaur displays and prehistoric fossils; and mineral and cut gemstone collections. The Pavilion of Wings lets visitors walk among hundreds of free-fluttering butterflies. History galleries depict life in California from 1540 to present.

San Diego Aerospace Museum Aerospace Historical Center

2001 Pan American Plaza

Balboa Park, Calif., (619) 234-8291

<http://www.aerospacemuseum.org>

The history of aviation from the dawn of flight to the age of space travel is depicted through displays featuring early gliders, a Kitty Hawk Flyer, a Spirit of St. Louis replica, barnstorming, early mail planes, World War II aircraft, modern fighters and a NASA space capsule.

PARKS and RECREATION

Big Bear Lake

Big Bear Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 2860, 630 Bartlett Rd.
Big Bear Lake, Calif., 92315
(909) 866-4607
<http://www.bigbearchamber.com/trans.htm>

Big Bear Lake and Valley are located about 30 miles northeast of San Bernardino in the San Bernardino Mountains. Camping and horseback riding are popular in the summer. Hunting and fishing are permitted in season.

Death Valley National Park

Death Valley, Calif., (760) 786-3200
<http://www.nps.gov/deva>

Death Valley, located on the eastern edge of California, encompasses more than 3 million acres and has elevations ranging from 282 feet below sea level to 11,049 feet above sea level.

Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks

47050 Generals Hwy.
Three Rivers, Calif., (559) 565-3341
<http://www.nps.gov/seki>

Home of the largest trees in the world, King's Canyon and Sequoia National Parks are open year-round. Bus tours within the parks are available daily in the summer.

Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park, Calif.
<http://www.nps.gov/yose/home.htm>

Yosemite's landscape spans about 1,189 square miles of park land. Visitors can witness Yosemite Falls, which plummet 2,425 feet—11 times further than Niagara and Half Dome, a structure halved by moving ice masses millions of years ago. The park lies in central California on the western slope of the Sierra Nevadas and serves as a getaway for hiking and camping activities.

Bear Mountain and Snow Summit Ski Resorts

Big Bear Lake, Calif.
(800) BEARMTN and
(888) SUMMIT1
<http://www.bigbearmountainresorts.com>

June Mountain Ski Resort

June Lake, Calif., (888) JUNEMTN
<http://www.junemountain.com>

VINEYARDS

Agua Dulce Vineyards

Agua Dulce, Calif., (661) 268-7402
<http://www.aguadulcevineyards.com>
Agua Dulce, Spanish for "sweet water," is located about 25 minutes from the Antelope Valley, south on the Antelope Valley Freeway. Appointments may be made for wine tasting and tours.

Antelope Valley Winery

Lancaster, Calif., (888) AV2-8332
<http://www.avwinery.com>
Located in Lancaster at the intersection of Ave. M and 20th St. W., this is a family owned winery specializing in the production of premium quality proprietary and varietal wines. Antelope Valley Winery is open seven days a week.

Napa Valley

Napa, Calif.
<http://www.napavintners.com>
Wine is made all over California, but the term "Wine Country" is associated with Napa and Sonoma Counties. The area is located northeast of San Francisco and has been made famous for the hundreds of wineries found in the region. State Rd. 29 runs throughout the valley and passes many well-known vintners.

Paso Robles Wine Country

Paso Robles, Calif.
<http://www.pasowine.com>
Paso Robles Wine Country is one of the fastest growing premium vineyards and winery regions in California, with the number of bonded wineries and wine grape acres in Paso Robles more than doubling between 1993 and 2002. Paso Robles is situated 20 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, literally halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and, because of this location, is in the center of the Central Coast wine region, which spans from Monterey County to the north and to Santa Barbara County to the south.

Santa Barbara County Wine Country

Santa Barbara, Calif.
<http://www.sbcountywines.com>
Santa Barbara County has a history of winemaking and wine grape growing spanning 200 years, with the area enjoying a renaissance in the last 25 years. There are now more than 62 wineries in Santa Barbara County, located primarily in the Santa Ynez and Santa Maria Valleys. Most of the wineries are small businesses, run by individuals or families. More than a million cases of wine are produced annually.

Sonoma County Wine

<http://www.sonomawine.com>
Nestled between the rugged Pacific Coast on the west and rolling hills and mountains on the east, Sonoma County offers a grand landscape of beautiful valleys and winding roads to explore. Visitors may taste wines at grand châteaux or small converted barns; sample fresh fruits and vegetables along farm trails; enjoy a matching of Sonoma County wines and foods prepared in the local restaurants and then retire to cozy bed and breakfast inns or world class hotels and spas.

The diversity of the countryside provides activities to all ages—fishing, whale watching, hot air ballooning, cycling, golf, canoeing, antique hunting or shopping our art trails.

Temecula Valley Wine Country

Temecula, Calif.
<http://www.temeculawines.org>
Mist often lingers until midmorning on this 1,400-foot plateau, located below the peaks of the local mountain range. The word "Temecula" is from the Luiseno Indian language meaning where the sun shines through the mist. Since 1966, premium quality wine grapes have been grown in the Temecula Valley with more than 20 wineries now located in the appellation. In addition to growing award-winning Chardonnay, Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc, more recently the wineries produce Mediterranean varietals like Viognier, Syrah and Pinot Gris. The remarkable success of these varietals has produced many awards and medals of excellence in domestic and international competitions.

SKIING

Mammoth Ski Resort

Mammoth Lakes, Calif., (800) MAMMOTH
<http://www.mammoth-mtn.com>

Mount Baldy Ski Resort

Upland, Calif., (909) 981-3344
<http://www.mtbaldy.com>

Mountain High Ski Resort

Wrightwood, Calif.
(888) 754-7878
<http://www.mthigh.com>

Snow Valley Ski Resort

Running Springs, Calif.
(909) 867-2751
<http://www.snow-valley.com>

CARING for the Environment

Supporting the Edwards Air Force Base mission through sound environmental stewardship

At Edwards, the mission and the natural environment go hand in hand. The unique physical environment makes the high desert an ideal place for flight test. Helping the flight testers and other units on base maintain access to the air, land and water for flight test, operations, research and other activities, while protecting the delicate balance of the desert ecosystem, is the mission of Environmental Management.

To effectively accomplish its mission, Environmental Management adopted a four-pillar approach. Appropriate personnel are consulted during the planning and implementation stages of all test programs and construction projects at Edwards.

The four pillars:

Cleanup: The identification, investigation, management and cleanup of hazardous waste sites aim to protect human health and the environment.

Conservation: Environmental assessments are provided for test programs and construction projects to survey potential impact. Efforts to manage the protection and preservation of natural resources and cultural and historic sites at Edwards also fall within the conservation pillar.

Pollution prevention: Processes are developed to minimize the use of hazardous materials, the generation of hazardous waste and the deposition of solid waste in a landfill. Pillar efforts emphasize reusing and recycling programs.

Compliance: Air quality, water quality, hazardous waste, aboveground and underground storage tanks and special programs concerning issues such as asbestos and lead-based paint are monitored, measured and carefully managed. Compliance personnel help base organizations select, design and install low-emission equipment; they also help them apply for and maintain permits. The goal of compliance is to meet and satisfy all applicable environmental laws, rules and regulations.

Base environmental personnel dedicated to all four pillars actively work with regulatory agencies and the community in a spirit of cooperation and commitment to ensure the Air Force Flight Test Center and all associate units on base accomplish the mission while respecting the environment.

For all who conduct business on the base – from Air Force flight testing to Marine helicopter operations to NASA's aerospace research to rocket science applications – Environmental Management provides assistance with project planning to ensure compliance with environmental law, reduce hazardous waste generation and ensure proper disposal of pollutants. By working together and doing the job right every day, Edwards will continue to comply with envi-

ronmental regulations, preserve the natural environment and accomplish the Air Force Flight Test Center's mission.



Photo by Phil Kocurek



Photo by John Wilson



Photo by John Wilson



Courtesy Photo



Turkey vultures roost in a tree near the base theater. The birds migrate through Edwards each spring and fall and can be seen sometimes in large flocks numbering more than 100. They will often roost in trees in housing areas overnight before continuing on their way. Environmental Management, Base Operations and the Safety Office keep a close watch on these flocks to minimize potential bird air-strike hazard risks. From a distance these large black birds can be confused with ravens, but if observers look closely they will notice white patches under the birds' wings and the distinctive red featherless head.

Photo by Senior Airman Jet Fabara